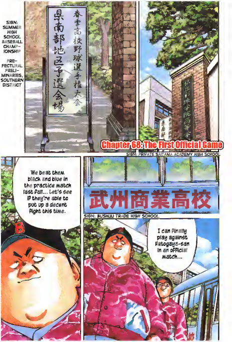
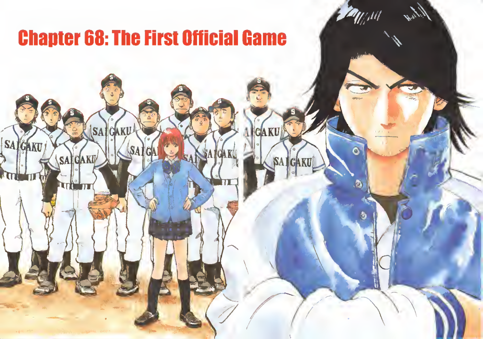
Adobe
Photoshop

Post on our forum or Irc channel for more info or just talk to staff.

Sorry know cute anime pictures on this
recruitment page this time we will show you
the three things you need to help our group.
First a Computer hope i don't need to explain that one.
Second you need photoshop or atleast gimp.
You don't need to be a pro at it
we will teach you the basic things that you
will need to learn in order to edit manga.
Finally you need time, it takes around two hours to either
typeset or clean something
so you must be willing to give up some free time
in order to give back to the community.
That's it thats all you need to join the group
so please apply cause we really do need help~!


春季高校野球選手権大会
県南部地区予選会場
SIGN: SUMMER HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP
PREFECTURAL PRELIMINARIES, SOUTHERN DISTRICT
Chapter 68: The First Official Game
SIGN: PRIVATE SAITAMA ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL
武州商業高校
SIGN: BUSHUU TRADE HIGH SCHOOL
I can finally play against Hatogaya-san in an official match...
We beat them black and blue in the practice match last fall... Let's see if they're able to put up a decent fight this time.

Chapter 68: The First Official Game



Private Saitama Academy High School
Baseball Club Roster

Oomiya Shiori
(2nd year)
[Manager]
160 cm/secret

B You don't need to know
W I'm not telling
H I'll kill you, dammit!

Moroyama Yutaka
[Club Leader]
166 cm/65 kg

Everyone should get along
4 I don't have any
(honestly it's Aikawa Nao)

Hatogaya Keisuke
[Coach]
180cm/73kg

There's no meaning to life unless you win
4 White from Othello

Kawaguchi Tomohiko
(3rd year)
[First base]
185 cm/80 kg

1 Left, left 2 Dog 3 Shimoyanagi Tsuyoshi (Hanshin) 4 Abe Natsumi

Yashio Seeta
(2nd year)
[Catcher]
173cm/65kg

1 Right, right 2 Monkey 3 Ivan Rodriguez (Tigers) 4 Matsushima Nanako

Hidaka Naoya
(3rd year)
[Pitcher]
178cm/75kg

1 Right, right 2 Cat 3 Igawa Kei (Hanshin) 4 Nagasawa Masami

Hasunuma Tetsuya
(3rd year)
[Shortstop]
171cm/62kg

1 Right, right 2 Dog 3 Nishioka Tsuyoshi (Lotte) 4 Ogura Yuuko

Namekawa Junpei
(Captain)
(3rd year)
[Third Base]
175 cm/72 kg

1 Right, right 2 Dog 3 Kawai Masahiro (Chuunichi) 4 Matsuura Aya

Ooi Katsutoyo
(3rd year)
[Second Base]
170cm/85kg (lie)

1 Right, right 2 Dog 3 Matsui Kazuo (Mets) 4 Yasuda Misako

Oomiya Takeshi
(2nd year)
[Right Fielder]
183cm/90kg

1 Right, left 2 Top dog 3 Barry Bonds (Giants) 4 Inoue Waka

Iwatsuki Masashi
(2nd year)
[Center Fielder]
168 cm/66kg

1 Right, right 2 Dog 3 Kinjou Tatsuhiko (Yokohama) 4 Kuroki Hitomi

Iruma Hiroyuki
(2nd year)
[Left Fielder]
171 cm/60 kg

1 Left, left 2 Dog 3 Fukudome Kousuke (Chuunichi) 4 Ueto Aya

Steve Stroughter
(1st year)
[Pitcher]

1 Left, left 2 ? 3 Mizuhara Yuuki (Tokyo Mets) (tl note character and team from a manga) 4 Shiina Hekiru, Mizuki Nana, Noto Mamiko – ran out of space

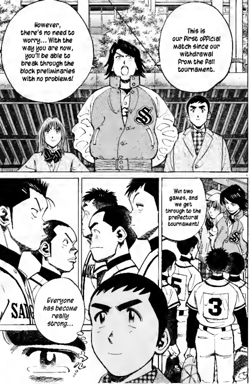
Kurihashi Yuuji
(3rd year)
[Outfielder]
175 cm/70 kg

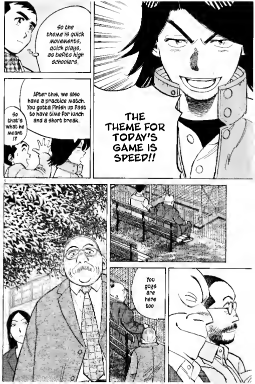
1 Right, right 2 Dog 3 Ichirou (Mariners) 4 Nakama Yukie

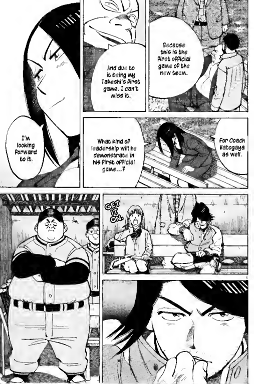
Kamifukuoka Tooru
(3rd year)
[Outfielder]
180 cm/85 kg

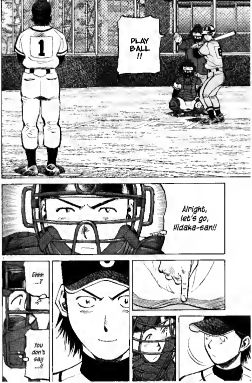
1 Right, right 2 Dog 3 Kiyohara Kazuhiro (Orix) 4 Shaku Yumiko

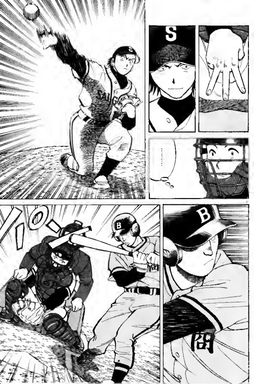
1 Throwing hand, batting hand 2 DCM personality classification 3 Admired baseball player 4 Favorite artist

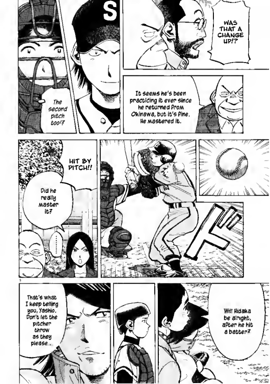

This is our first official match since our withdrawal from the Fall tournament.
However, there's no need to worry... With the way you are now, you'll be able to break through the block preliminaries with no problems!
Win two games, and we get through to the prefectural tournament!
Everyone has become really strong...

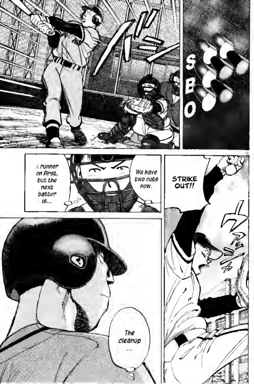

THE THEME FOR TODAY'S GAME IS SPEED!!
So the theme is quick movements, quick plays, as befits high schoolers
After this, we also have a practice match. You gotta finish up fast to have time for lunch and a short break.
So that's what he meant!?
You guys are here too

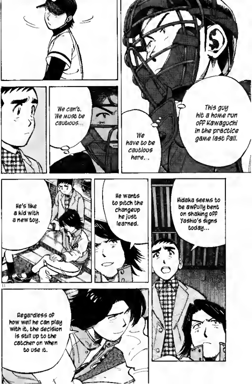

Because this is the first official game of the new team.
And due to it being my Takeshi's first game. I can't miss it.
For Coach Hatogaya as well.
What kind of leadership will he demonstrate in his first official game...?
I'm looking forward to it.
GET IT ON.

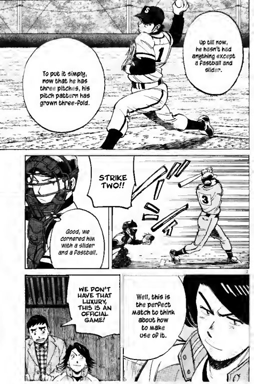

PLAY BALL !!
Alright, let's go, Hidaka-san!!
Ehhh ...?
You don't say ...!!

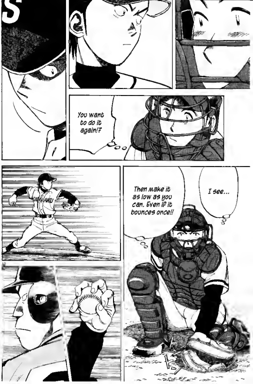

S
SAIG
……
B
B

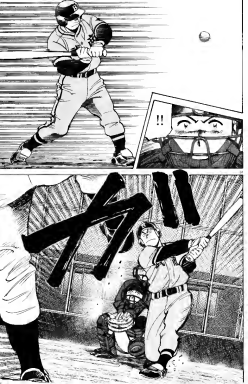

WAS THAT A CHANGE UP!?
The second pitch too!?
It seems he's been practicing it ever since he returned from Okinawa, but it's fine. He mastered it.
ド
HIT BY PITCH!!
Did he really master it?
......
Will Hidaka be alright, after he hit a batter?
That's what I keep telling you, Yashio. Don't let the pitcher throw as they please.


S
B
O
STRIKE OUT!!
We have two outs now.
A runner on first, but the next batter is...
The cleanup ...


This guy hit a home run off Kawaguchi in the practice game last fall.
We have to be cautious here..
We can't. We must be cautious...
Hidaka seems to be awfully bent on shaking off Yashio's signs today...
He wants to pitch the changeup he just learned.
He's like a kid with a new toy.
Regardless of how well he can play with it, the decision is still up to the catcher on when to use it.


Up till now, he hasn't had anything except a fastball and slider.
To put it simply, now that he has three pitches, his pitch pattern has grown three-fold.
STRIKE TWO!!
Good, we cornered him with a slider and a fastball.
Well, this is the perfect match to think about how to make use of it.
WE DON'T HAVE THAT LUXURY, THIS IS AN OFFICIAL GAME!


You want to do it again!?
I see...
Then make it as low as you can. Even if it bounces once!!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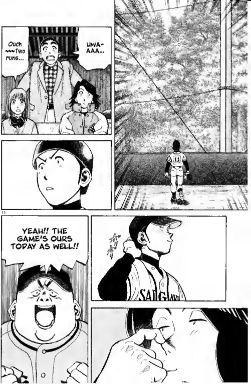
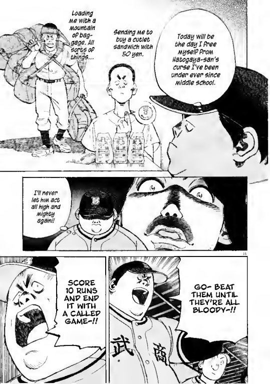
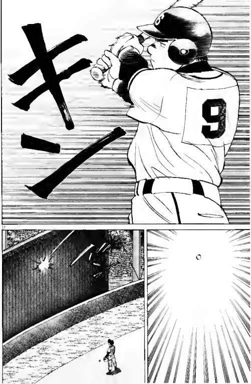
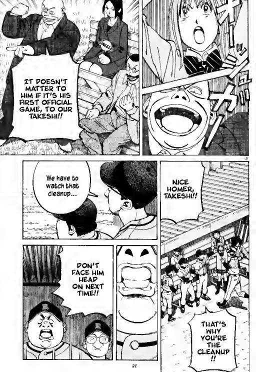
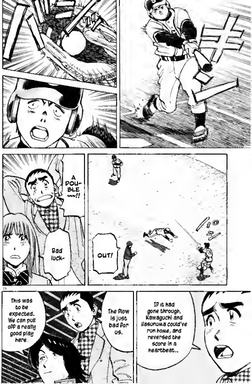
ズ

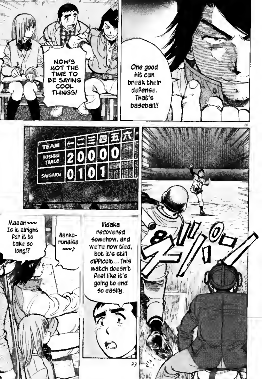

11
UWA-AAA...
Ouch ~Two runs...
SAIGAKU
YEAH!! THE GAME'S OURS TODAY AS WELL!!

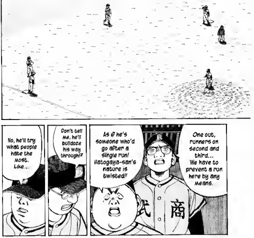

Today will be the day I free myself from Hatogaya-san's curse I've been under ever since middle school.
Sending me to buy a cutlet sandwich with 50 yen.
Loading me with a mountain of baggage. All sorts of things...
I'll never let him act all high and mighty again!!
GO- BEAT THEM UNTIL THEY'RE ALL BLOODY-!!
SCORE 10 RUNS AND END IT WITH A CALLED GAME-!!
武
商

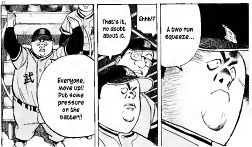

キーン

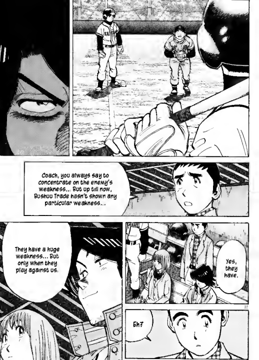

オーッシュ
カー
IT DOESN'T MATTER TO HIM IF IT'S HIS FIRST OFFICIAL GAME, TO OUR TAKESHI!!
NICE HOMER, TAKESHI!!
THAT'S WHY YOU'RE THE CLEANUP!!
We have to watch that cleanup...
DON'T FACE HIM HEAD ON NEXT TIME!!

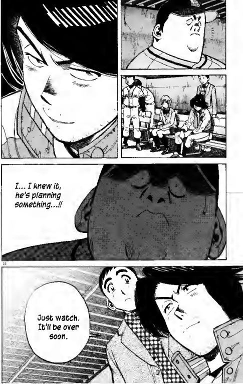

キ
OUT!
A DOUBLE~~!!
Bad luck-
If it had gone through, Kawaguchi and Hasunuma could've run home, and reversed the score in a heartbeat...
The flow is just bad for us.
This was to be expected. We can pull off a really good play here.


One good hit can break their defense. That's baseball!!
NOW'S NOT THE TIME TO BE SAYING COOL THINGS!
20
TEAM
一 二 三 四 五 六
BUSHUU TRADE 2 0 0 0 0
SAIGAKU 0 1 0 1
ズパーン
Hidaka recovered somehow, and we're now tied, but it's still difficult... This match doesn't feel like it's going to end so easily.
Nanku-runaisa ~♪
Maaan ~ Is it alright for it to take so long!?


One out, runners on second and third... We have to prevent a run here by any means.
As if he's someone who'd go after a single run! Hatogaya-san's nature is twisted!!
Don't tell me, he'll bulldoze his way through!?
No, he'll try what people hate the most. Like...


A two run squeeze...
Ehhh!?
That's it, no doubt about it.
Everyone, move up!! Put some pressure on the batter!!


Coach, you always say to concentrate on the enemy's weakness... But up till now, Bushou Trade hasn't shown any particular weakness...
Yes, they have.
Eh?
They have a huge weakness... But only when they play against us.


I... I knew it, he's planning something...!!
Just watch. It'll be over soon.

ENDLESSABYSS.HOST56.COM

ENDLESS

TRANSLATOR ABYSS CMERTB
EDITOR Nomit, Bearking
PROOFREADER GETFRESH, CMERTB
QC'ER Kaze, Bearking

LOOKING
FOR STAFF.

Adobe
Photoshop

Post on our forum or Irc channel for more info or just talk to staff.

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so you must be willing to give up some free time
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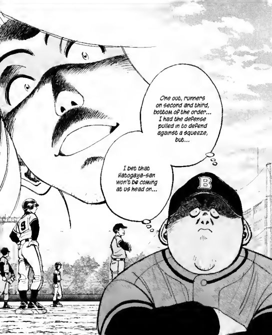
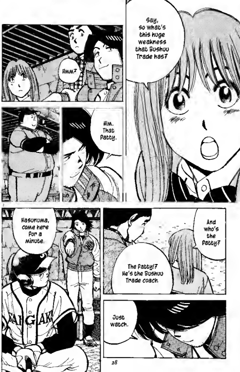
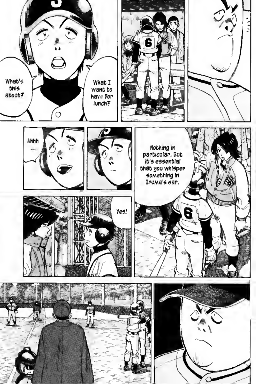
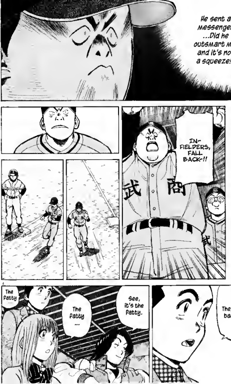
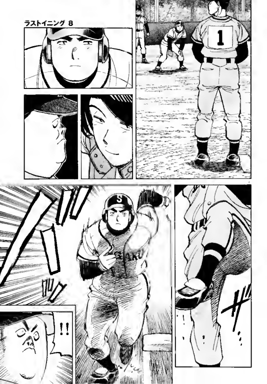
Chapter 69: Hatogaya's Menace


One out, runners on second and third, bottom of the order... I had the defense pulled in to defend against a squeeze, but...
I bet that Hatogaya-san won't be coming at us head on...
B
9


Say, so what's this huge weakness that Bushuu Trade has?
Hmm?
Him. That fatty.
Hasunuma, come here for a minute.
And who's the fatty?
The fatty!? He's the Bushuu Trade coach.
Just watch.
SAIGAK


What's this about?
What I want to have for lunch?
Ahhh ...
Nothing in particular. But it's essential that you whisper something in Iruma's ear.
Yes!


He sent a messenger ...Did he outsmart me, and it's not a squeeze!?
IN-FIELDERS, FALL BACK-!!
They fell back...
See, it's the Patty.
The Patty ...
The Patty


1
S
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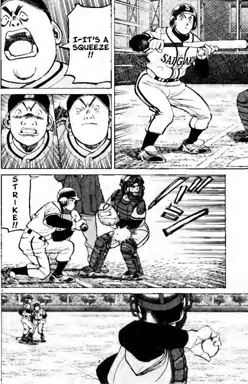
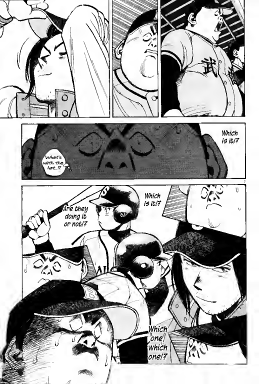
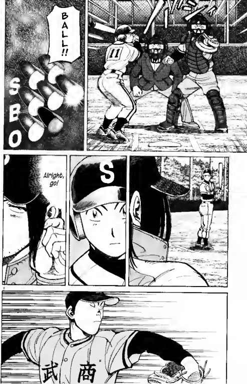
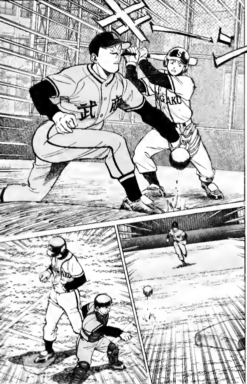
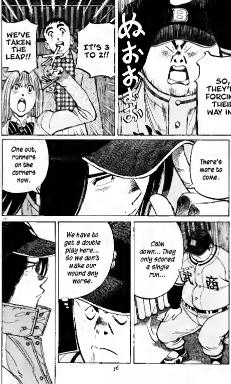
ザッ
"

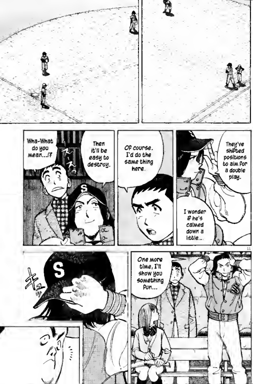

SAIGAK
I-IT'S A SQUEEZE!!
STRIKE!!

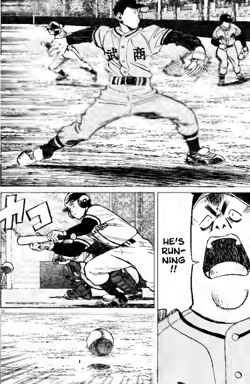

Which is it!?
What's with the hat..!?
Which is it!?
Are they doing it or not!?
Which one! which one!?

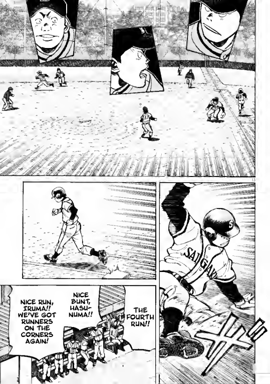

BALL!!
S
B
O
Alright, go!
S
武商

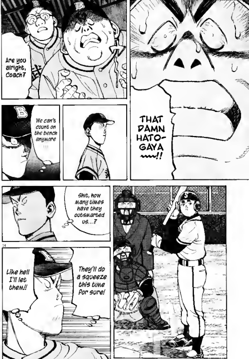

武
GAKU
GAKU

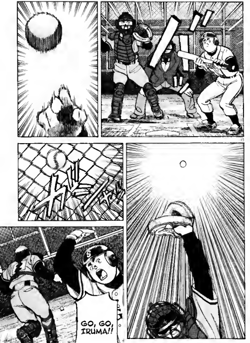

ぬおおおぉ
SO, THEY'RE FORCING THEIR WAY IN!!
IT'S 3 TO 2!!
WE'VE TAKEN THE LEAD!!
There's more to come.
One out, runners on the corners now.
Calm down... They only scored a single run...
武商
We have to get a double play here... So we don't make our wound any worse.

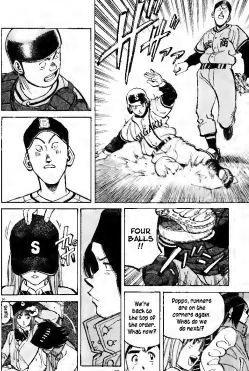

They've shifted positions to aim for a double play.
I wonder if he's calmed down a little...
Of course. I'd do the same thing here...
Then it'll be easy to destroy.
Wha-What do you mean...!?
One more time, I'll show you something fun...
キュッ

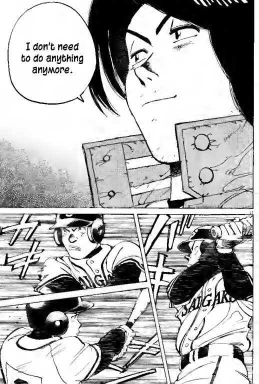

武商
カコ
HE'S RUNNING!!

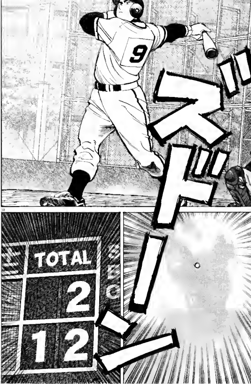

ザッ
THE FOURTH RUN!!
NICE BUNT, HASUNUMA!!
NICE RUN, IRUMA!! WE'VE GOT RUNNERS ON THE CORNERS AGAIN!

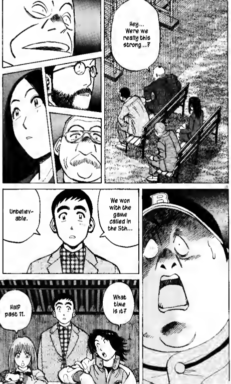

THAT DAMN HATO-GAYA ~~!!
Are you alright, Coach?
We can't count on the bench anymore
...
Shit, how many times have they outsmarted us...?
They'll do a squeeze this time for sure!
Like hell I'll let them!!

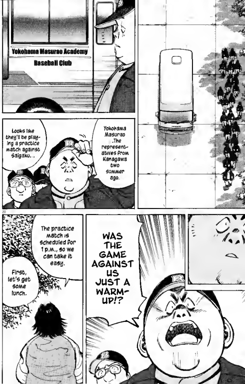

ガシーャッ
GO, GO, IRUMA!!


ズザザァァ
武商
GAKU
FOUR BALLS !!
バシ
カポ
Poppo, runners are on the corners again. What do we do next!?
We're back to the top of the order. What now?
Really


I don't need to do anything anymore.


ズドーン
TOTAL
2
12


Hey... Were we really this strong...?
We won with the game called in the 5th...
Unbelievable.
What time is it?
Half past 11.


Yokohama Masurao Academy
Baseball Club
Yokohama Masurao .The representatives from Kanagawa two summer ago.
Looks like they'll be playing a practice match against Saigaku. .
WAS THE GAME AGAINST US JUST A WARM-UP!?
The practice match is scheduled for 1 p.m., so we can take it easy.
First, let's get some lunch.

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ABYSS

TRANSLATOR	CMERTB
EDITOR	Nomit, Bearking
PROOFREADER	GETFRESH, CMERTB
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SCANNER	GODA-LEI

LOOKING
FOR STAFF.

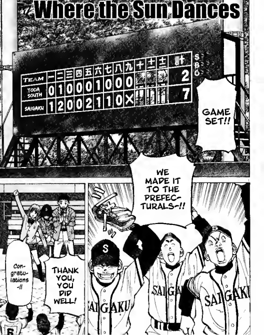
Adobe
Photoshop

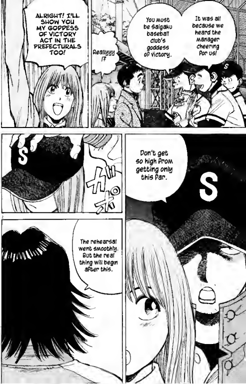
Post on our forum or Irc channel for more info or just talk to staff.

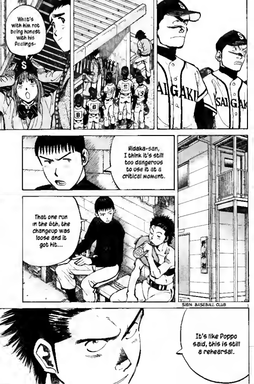
Sorry know cute anime pictures on this recruitment page this time we will show you the three things you need to help our group.
First a Computer hope i don't need to explain that one.
Second you need photoshop or atleast gimp.
You don't need to be a pro at it
we will teach you the basic things that you will need to learn in order to edit manga.
Finally you need time, it takes around two hours to either typeset or clean something
so you must be willing to give up some free time in order to give back to the community.
That's it thats all you need to join the group
so please apply cause we really do need help~!

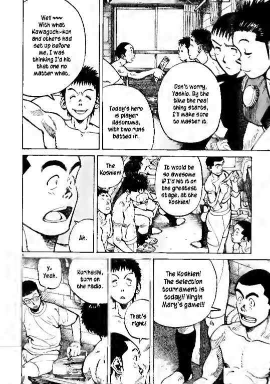
Chapter 70: Koshien Where the Sun Dances

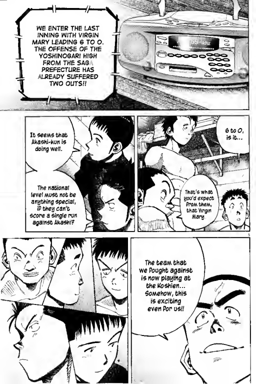
TL NOTE: THE TITLE OF THE OFFICIAL SONG OF THE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT, AKA THE SPRING KOSHIEN, AKA SENBATSU (SELECTION).

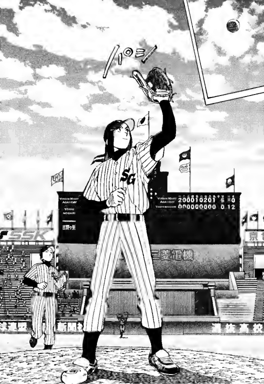

TEAM 一 二 三 四 五 六 七 八 九 十 十一 十二 計
TODA SOUTH 0 1 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 2
SAIGAKU 1 2 0 0 2 1 1 0 X 7
S B O
GAME SET!!
WE MADE IT TO THE PREFECTURALS-!!
THANK YOU, YOU DID WELL!
Congratulations-!!
S
SAIGAKU
SAIGAKU
SAIGAKU

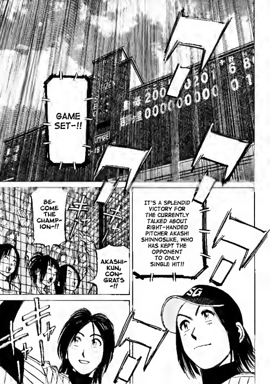

It was all because we heard the manager cheering for us!
You must be Saigaku baseball club's goddess of victory.
Reallyyy !?
ALRIGHT! I'LL SHOW YOU MY GODDESS OF VICTORY ACT IN THE PREFECTURALS TOO!
Don't get so high from getting only this far.
ガポ
The rehearsal went smoothly. But the real thing will begin after this.


What's with him not being honest with his feelings-
SAIGAKU
SAIGAK
SIGN: BASEBALL CLUB
Hidaka-san, I think it's still too dangerous to use it at a critical moment.
That one run in the 8th, the changeup was loose and it got hit...
It's like Poppo said, this is still a rehearsal.


Today's hero is player Hasunuma, with two runs batted in.
Well ~~ With what Kawaguchi-kun and others had set up before me, I was thinking I'd hit that one no matter what.
Don't worry, Yashio. By the time the real thing starts, I'll make sure to master it.
It would be so awesome if I'd hit it on the greatest stage, at the Koshien!
The Koshien!
Ah.
The Koshien! The selection tournament is today!! Virgin Mary's game!!!
That's right!
Kurihashi, turn on the radio.
Y-Yeah.


WE ENTER THE LAST INNING WITH VIRGIN MARY LEADING 6 TO 0. THE OFFENSE OF THE YOSHINOGARI HIGH FROM THE SAGA PREFECTURE HAS ALREADY SUFFERED TWO OUTS!!
6 to 0, is it...
That's what you'd expect from them, that Virgin Mary.
It seems that Akashi-kun is doing well.
The national level must not be anything special, if they can't score a single run against Akashi?
The team that we fought against is now playing at the Koshien... Somehow, this is exciting even for us!!


パシ
SG
VIRGIN MARY ACADEMY
YOSHI NOGARI
吉野ヶ里
VIRGIN MARY ACADEMY 200010201 6 0
YOSHINOGARI 000000000 0 12
SSK
三菱電機


ワァ
ワァ
GAME SET-!!
CITIZEN
UMPIRE
IT'S A SPLENDID VICTORY FOR THE CURRENTLY TALKED ABOUT RIGHT-HANDED PITCHER AKASHI SHINNOSUKE, WHO HAS KEPT THE OPPONENT TO ONLY SINGLE HIT!!
ワァ
キャ
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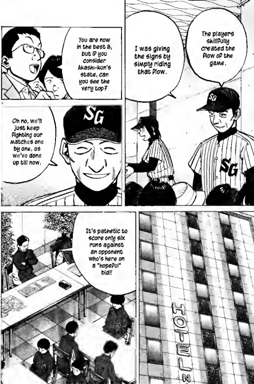
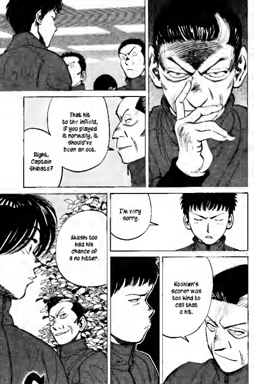
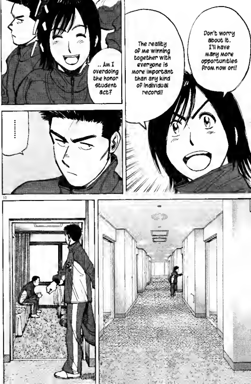
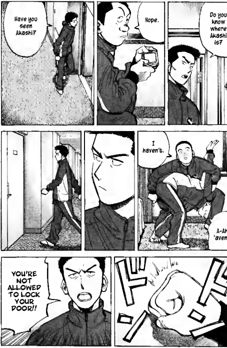
BECOME THE CHAMPION-!!
AKASHI-KUN, CONGRATS-!!
SG
キャ
キャ


The players skillfully created the flow of the game.
I was giving the signs by simply riding that flow.
You are now in the best 8, but if you consider Akashi-kun's state, can you see the very top?
SG
Oh no, we'll just keep fighting our matches one by one, as we've done up till now.
SG
SG
HOTEL
It's pathetic to score only six runs against an opponent who's here on a "hopeful" bid!!

*IN 2003-2008, ONE BID TO THE SELECTION TOURNAMENT (CALLED "HOPEFUL") WAS AWARDED TO A TEAM WITH A PARTICULARLY GOOD DEFENSE.


That hit to the infield, if you played it normally, it should've been an out.
Right, Captain Shibata?
I'm very sorry.
Koshien's scorer was too kind to call that a hit.
Akashi too had his chance of a no hitter.


Don't worry about it. I'll have many more opportunities from now on!!
The reality of me winning together with everyone is more important than any kind of individual record!!
.. Am I overdoing the honor student act?
……


Do you know where Akashi is?
Nope.
Have you seen Akashi?
I haven't.
A-Ah 'aven'.
11
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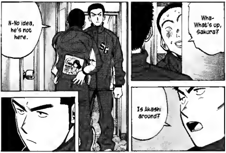
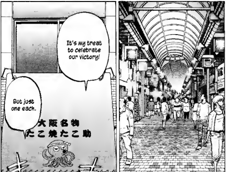
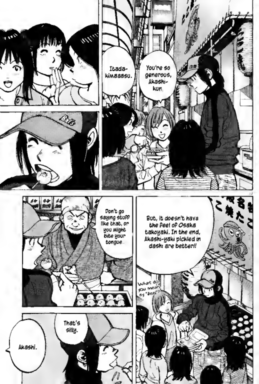
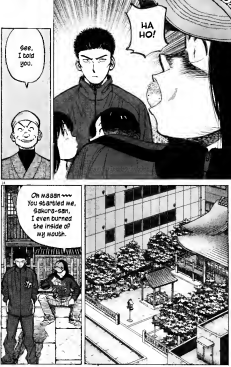
ド
YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED TO LOCK YOUR DOOR!!

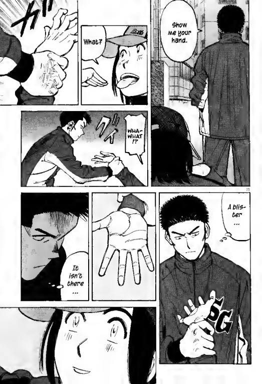

Wha- What's up, Sakura?
Is Akashi around?
N-No idea, he's not here.

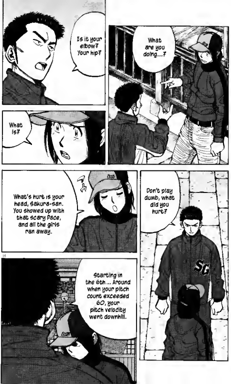

It's my treat to celebrate our victory!
But just one each.
大阪名物
たこ焼たこ助
たこ
たこ

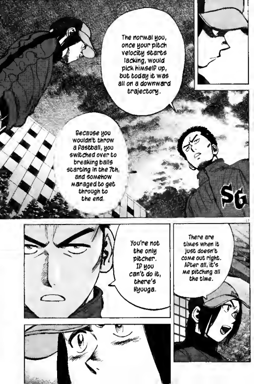
SIGN: OSAKA SPECIAL // TAKOYAKI TAKOSUKE

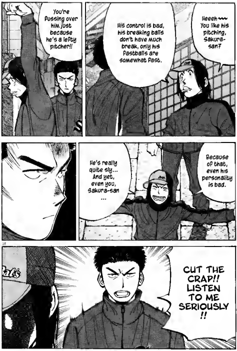

You're so generous, Akashi-kun.
Itada-kimaaasu.
But, it doesn't hava the Feel of Osaka takoyaki. In the end, Akashi-yaki pickled in dashi are better!!
What do you mean by "Feel"?
Don't go saying stuff like that, or you might bite your tongue
That's silly.
Akashi.

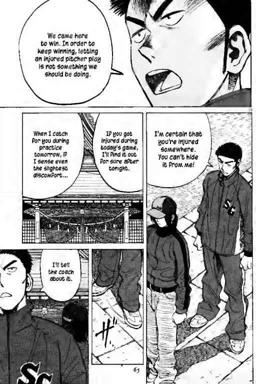

HA HO!
See, I told you.
14
Oh maaan~~ You startled me, Sakura-san, I even burned the inside of my mouth.

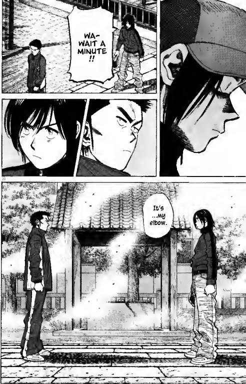

Show me your hand.
What?
ガッ
WHA-WHAT!?
グイ
A blister...
It isn't there...


What are you doing...?
Is it your elbow? Your hip?
What is?
Don't play dumb, what did you hurt?
What's hurt is your head, Sakura-san. You showed up with that scary face, and all the girls ran away.
SG
Starting in the 6th... Around when your pitch count exceeded 60, your pitch velocity went downhill.


The normal you, once your pitch velocity starts lacking, would pick himself up, but today it was all on a downward trajectory.
Because you wouldn't throw a fastball, you switched over to breaking balls starting in the 7th and somehow managed to get through to the end.
SG
There are times when it just doesn't come out right. After all, it's me pitching all the time.
You're not the only pitcher. If you can't do it, there's Hyuuga.


Heeeh~~ You like his pitching, Sakura-san?
His control is bad, his breaking balls don't have much break, only his fastballs are somewhat fast.
You're fussing over him just because he's a lefty pitcher!!
Because of that, even his personality is bad.
He's really quite sly... And yet, even you, Sakura-san ...
CUT THE CRAP!! LISTEN TO ME SERIOUSLY !!


We came here to win. In order to keep winning, letting an injured pitcher play is not something we should be doing.
I'm certain that you're injured somewhere. You can't hide it from me!
If you got injured during today's game, I'll find it out for sure after tonight.
When I catch for you during practice tomorrow, if I sense even the slightest discomfort...
I'll tell the coach about it.


WA- WAIT A MINUTE !!
It's ...my elbow.

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EDITOR	AKIR4, Bearking
PROOFREADER	GETFRESH, CMERTB
QC'ER	Kaze, Bearking
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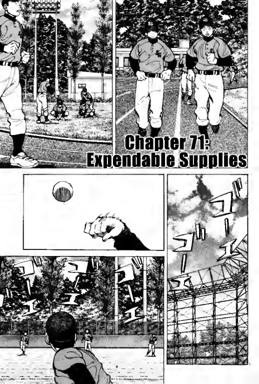
Chapter 71: Expendable Supplies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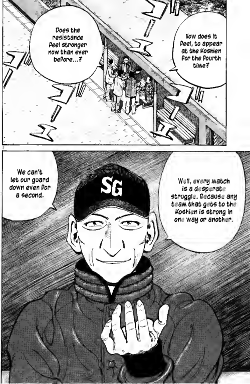
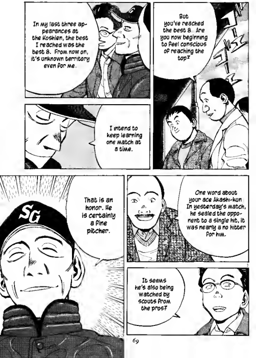
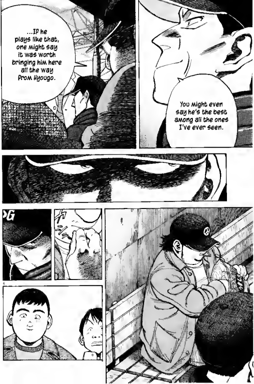
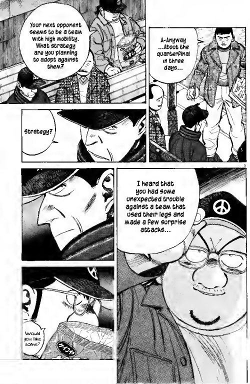
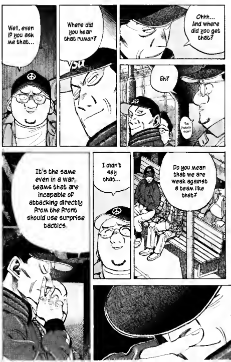
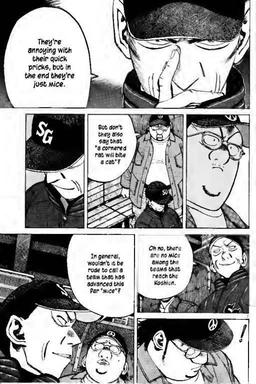

How does it feel, to appear at the Koshien for the fourth time?
Does the resistance feel stronger now than ever before...?
SG
Well, every match is a desperate struggle. Because any team that gets to the Koshien is strong in one way or another.
We can't let our guard down even for a second.

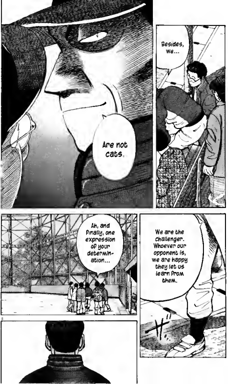

But you've reached the best 8. Are you now beginning to feel conscious of reaching the top?
In my last three appearances at the Koshien, the best I reached was the best 8. From now on, it's unknown territory even for me.
I intend to keep learning one match at a time.
One word about your ace Akashi-kun In yesterday's match, he sealed the opponent to a single hit, it was nearly a no hitter for him.
It seems he's also being watched by scouts from the pros?
SG
That is an honor. He is certainly a fine pitcher.

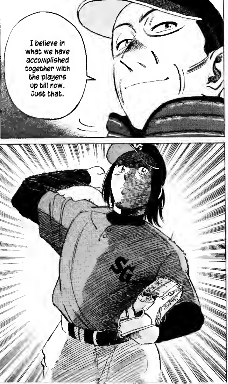

...If he plays like that, one might say it was worth bringing him here all the way from Hyougo.
You might even say he's the best among all the ones I've ever seen.

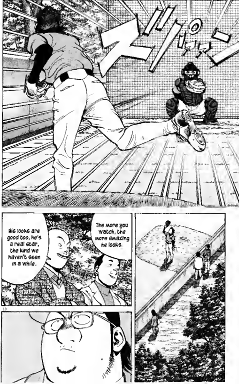

A-Anyway ...About the quarterfinal in three days...
Your next opponent seems to be a team with high mobility. What strategy are you planning to adopt against them?
Strategy?
I heard that you had some unexpected trouble against a team that used their legs and made a few surprise attacks...
Would you like some?

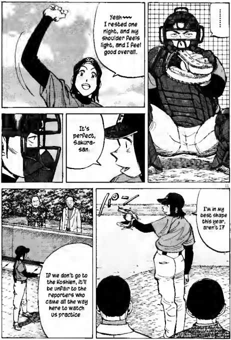

Ohhh... And where did you get that?
Where did you hear that rumor?
Well, even if you ask me that...
Eh?
The Potato chips?
Do you mean that we are weak against a team like that?
I didn't say that...
It's the same even in a war, teams that are incapable of attacking directly from the front should use surprise tactics.

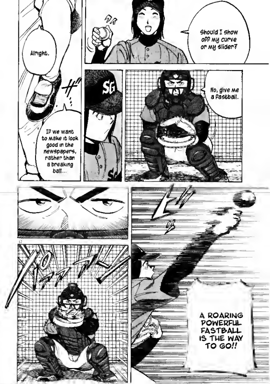

They're annoying with their quick pricks, but in the end they're just mice.
But don't they also say that "a cornered rat will bite a cat"?
Oh no, there are no mice among the teams that reach the Koshien.
In general, wouldn't it be rude to call a team that has advanced this far "mice"?
!

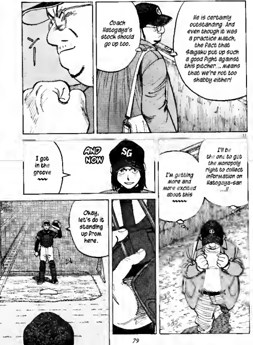

Besides, we...
Are not cats.
We are the challenger. Whoever our opponent is, we are happy they let us learn from them.
Ah, and finally, one expression of your determination...

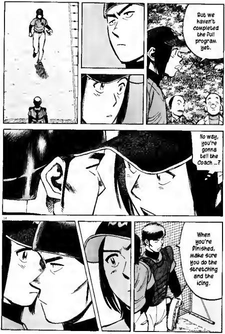

I believe in what we have accomplished together with the players up till now. Just that.

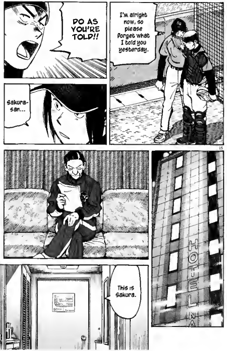

The more you watch, the more amazing he looks
His looks are good too, he's a real star, the kind we haven't seen in a while.

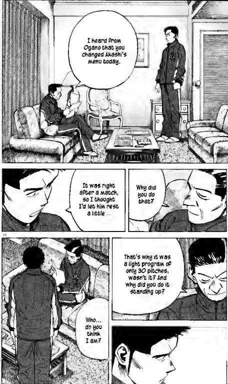

……
Yeah~~ I rested one night, and my shoulder feels light, and I feel good overall.
It's perfect, Sakura-san
I'm in my best shape this year, aren't I?
If we don't go to the Koshien, it'll be unfair to the reporters who came all the way here to watch us practice

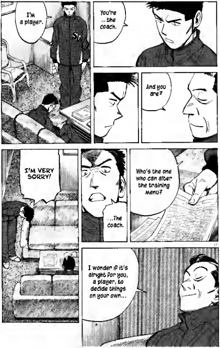

Should I show off my curve or my slider?
Alright.
No, give me a fastball.
If we want to make it look good in the newspapers, rather than a breaking ball...
A ROARING POWERFUL FASTBALL IS THE WAY TO GO!!

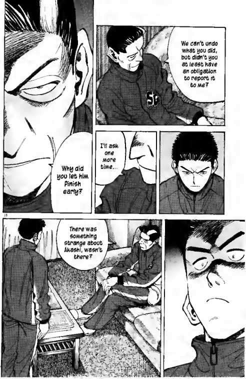

He is certainly outstanding. And even though it was a practice match, the fact that Saigaku put up such a good fight against this pitcher... means that we're not too shabby either!
Coach Hatogaya's stock should go up too.
I'll be the one to get the monopoly right to collect information on Hatogaya-san ...!!
I'm getting more and more excited about this ~~~
SG
AND NOW
I got in the groove ~~~
Okay, let's do it standing up from here.

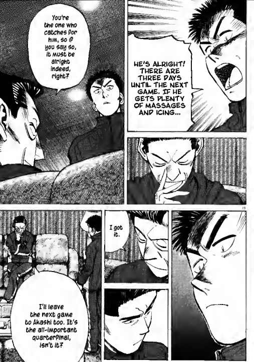

But we haven't completed the full program yet.
No way, you're gonna tell the Coach ..?
When you're finished, make sure you do the stretching and the icing.

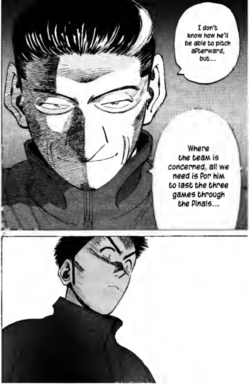

I'm alright now, so please forget what I told you yesterday.
DO AS YOU'RE TOLD!!
Sakura-san...
HOTEL NA
This is Sakura.


I heard from Ogano that you changed Akashi's menu today.
Why did you do that?
It was right after a match, so I thought I'd let him rest a little...
That's why it was a light program of only 30 pitches, wasn't it? And why did you do it standing up?
Who... do you think I am?


You're ...the coach.
And you are?
I'm a player.
Who's the one who can alter the training menu?
...The coach.
I wonder if it's alright for you, a player, to decide things on your own...
I'M VERY SORRY!


We can't undo what you did, but didn't you at least have an obligation to report it to me?
I'll ask one more time...
Why did you let him finish early?
There was something strange about Akashi, wasn't there?


HE'S ALRIGHT! THERE ARE THREE DAYS UNTIL THE NEXT GAME. IF HE GETS PLENTY OF MASSAGES AND ICING...
You're the one who catches for him, so if you say so, it must be alright indeed, right?
19
I got it.
I'll leave the next game to Akashi too. It's the all-important quarterfinal, isn't it?


I don't know how he'll be able to pitch afterward, but...
Where the team is concerned, all we need is for him to last the three games through the finals...

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ENDLESS ABYSS

TRANSLATOR	CMERTB
EDITOR	AKIR4, Bearking
PROOFREADER	GETFRESH, CMERTB
QC'ER	Kaze, Bearking
SCANNER	GODA-LEI

LOOKING FOR STAFF.

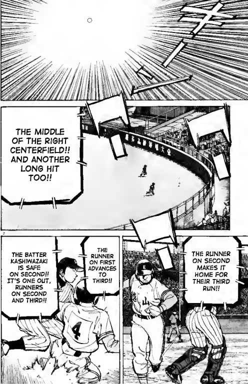
Adobe
Photoshop

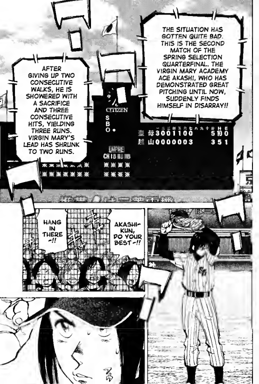
Post on our forum or Irc channel for more info or just talk to staff.

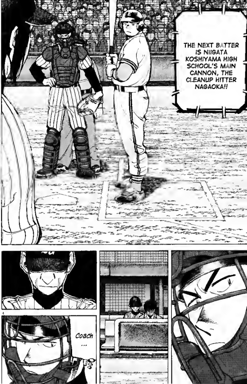
Sorry know cute anime pictures on this
recruitment page this time we will show you
the three things you need to help our group.
First a Computer hope i don't need to explain that one.
Second you need photoshop or atleast gimp.
You don't need to be a pro at it
we will teach you the basic things that you
will need to learn in order to edit manga.
Finally you need time, it takes around two hours to either
typeset or clean something
so you must be willing to give up some free time
in order to give back to the community.
That's it thats all you need to join the group
so please apply cause we really do need help~!

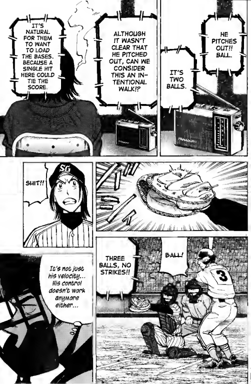
Chapter 72: Severe Punishment

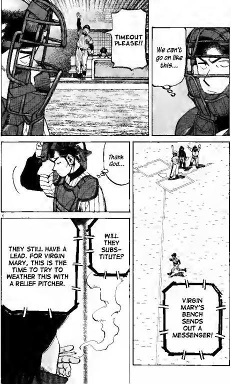
SG
CITIZEN
S
B
O
UMPIRE
H
SSK

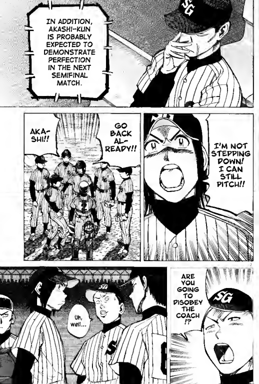

THE MIDDLE OF THE RIGHT CENTERFIELD!! AND ANOTHER LONG HIT TOO!!
THE RUNNER ON SECOND MAKES IT HOME FOR THEIR THIRD RUN!!
THE RUNNER ON FIRST ADVANCES TO THIRD!!
THE BATTER KASHIWAZAKI IS SAFE ON SECOND!! IT'S ONE OUT, RUNNERS ON SECOND AND THIRD!!
4

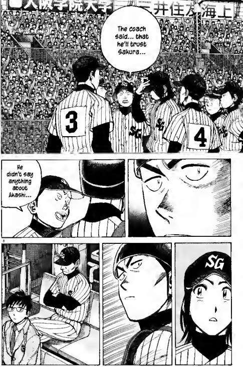

THE SITUATION HAS GOTTEN QUITE BAD. THIS IS THE SECOND MATCH OF THE SPRING SELECTION QUARTERFINAL. THE VIRGIN MARY ACADEMY ACE AKASHI, WHO HAS DEMONSTRATED GREAT PITCHING UNTIL NOW, SUDDENLY FINDS HIMSELF IN DISARRAY!!
AFTER GIVING UP TWO CONSECUTIVE WALKS, HE IS SHOWERED WITH A SACRIFICE AND THREE CONSECUTIVE HITS, YIELDING THREE RUNS. VIRGIN MARY'S LEAD HAS SHRUNK TO TWO RUNS.
CITIZEN
S
B
O
聖 母 3001100 5 10 0
越 山 0000003 3 5 1
UMPIRE
CH 1B IIB IIIB
AKASHI-KUN, DO YOUR BEST-!!
HANG IN THERE-!!

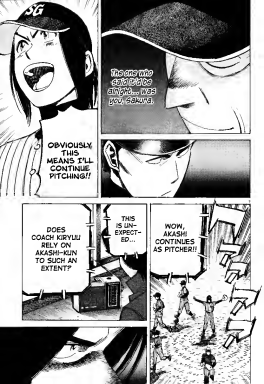

THE NEXT BATTER IS NIIGATA KOSHIYAMA HIGH SCHOOL'S MAIN CANNON, THE CLEANUP HITTER NAGAOKA!!
Coach ...

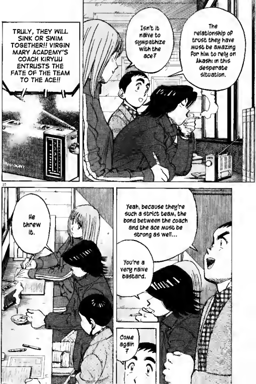

HE PITCHES OUT!! BALL.
IT'S TWO BALLS.
ALTHOUGH IT WASN'T CLEAR THAT HE PITCHED OUT, CAN WE CONSIDER THIS AN INTENTIONAL WALK!?
IT'S NATURAL FOR THEM TO WANT TO LOAD THE BASES. BECAUSE A SINGLE HIT HERE COULD TIE THE SCORE.
SG
SHIT!!
BALL!
3
THREE BALLS, NO STRIKES!!
It's not just his velocity... His control doesn't work anymore either...

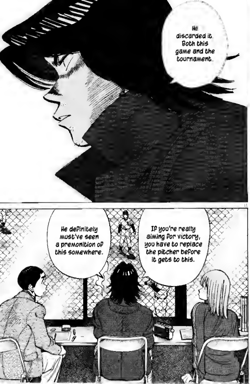

We can't go on like this...
TIMEOUT PLEASE!!
Thank God...
VIRGIN MARY'S BENCH SENDS OUT A MESSENGER!
WILL THEY SUBSTITUTE?
THEY STILL HAVE A LEAD. FOR VIRGIN MARY, THIS IS THE TIME TO TRY TO WEATHER THIS WITH A RELIEF PITCHER.

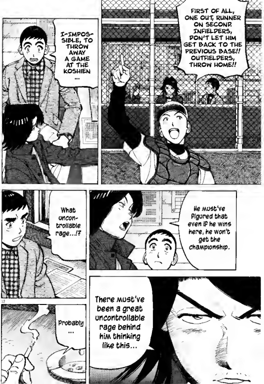

IN ADDITION, AKASHI-KUN IS PROBABLY EXPECTED TO DEMONSTRATE PERFECTION IN THE NEXT SEMIFINAL MATCH.
I'M NOT STEPPING DOWN! I CAN STILL PITCH!!
GO BACK ALREADY!!
AKASHI!!
ARE YOU GOING TO DISOBEY THE COACH!?
Uh, well...

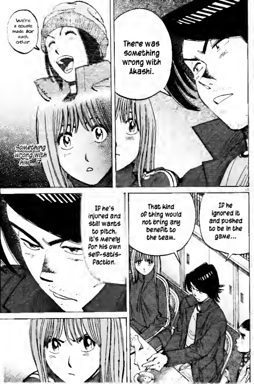

大阪学院大学
三井住友海上
The coach said... that he'll trust Sakura...
3
4
SG
He didn't say anything about Akashi...
8
SG

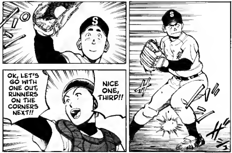

The one who said it'd be alright... was you, Sakura.
SG
OBVIOUSLY THIS MEANS I'LL CONTINUE PITCHING!!
WOW, AKASHI CONTINUES AS PITCHER!!
THIS IS UNEXPECTED...
DOES COACH KIRYUU RELY ON AKASHI-KUN TO SUCH AN EXTENT?


The relationship of trust they have must be amazing for him to rely on Akashi in this desperate situation.
Isn't it naive to sympathize with the ace?
TRULY, THEY WILL SINK OR SWIM TOGETHER!! VIRGIN MARY ACADEMY'S COACH KIRYUU ENTRUSTS THE FATE OF THE TEAM TO THE ACE!!
Yeah, because they're such a strict team, the bond between the coach and the ace must be strong as well...
You're a very naive bastard.
Come again?
He threw it.

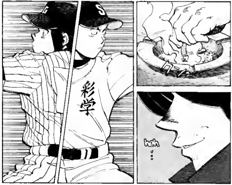

He discarded it. Both this game and the tournament.
If you're really aiming for victory, you have to replace the pitcher before it gets to this.
He definitely must've seen a premonition of this somewhere.

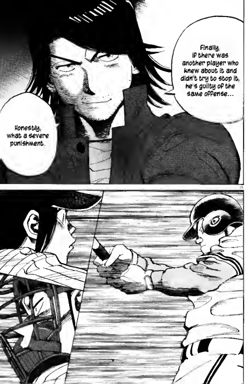

FIRST OF ALL, ONE OUT, RUNNER ON SECOND! INFIELDERS, DON'T LET HIM GET BACK TO THE PREVIOUS BASE!! OUTFIELDERS, THROW HOME!!
I-IMPOSSIBLE, TO THROW AWAY A GAME AT THE KOSHIEN ...
He must've figured that even if he wins here, he won't get the championship.
What uncontrollable rage...!?
There must've been a great uncontrollable rage behind him thinking like this...
Probably ...

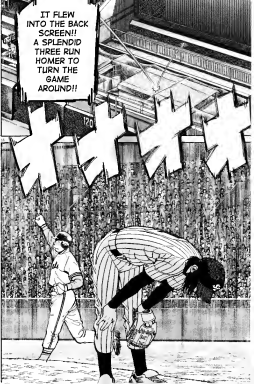

There was something wrong with Akashi.
We're a couple made for each other.
Something wrong with him...!?
If he ignored it and pushed to be in the game...
That kind of thing would not bring any benefit to the team.
If he's injured and still wants to pitch, it's merely for his own self-satisfaction.

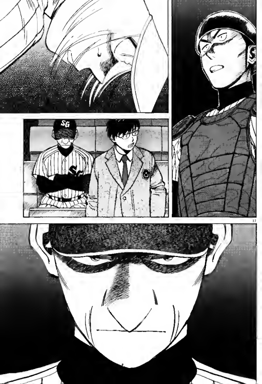

NICE ONE, THIRD!!
OK, LET'S GO WITH ONE OUT, RUNNERS ON THE CORNERS NEXT!!

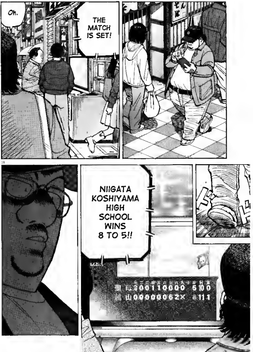
14 UNIFORM: SAIGAKU

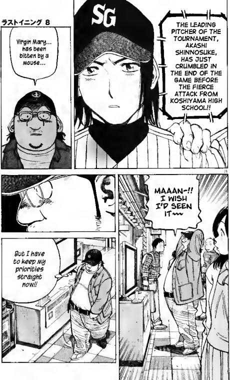


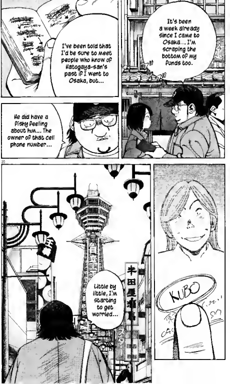

Finally
if there was another player who knew about it and didn't try to stop it, he's guilty of the same offense...
Honestly
what a severe punishment


IT FLEW INTO THE BACK SCREEN!! A SPLENDID THREE RUN HOMER TO TURN THE GAME AROUND!!
120
オオオオ


SG
SG


THE MATCH IS SET!
Oh.
NIIGATA KOSHIYAMA HIGH SCHOOL WINS 8 TO 5!!
聖徳 200110000 5 10 0
越山 00000062× 8 11 1


SG
THE LEADING PITCHER OF THE TOURNAMENT, AKASHI SHINNOSUKE, HAS JUST CRUMBLED IN THE END OF THE GAME BEFORE THE FIERCE ATTACK FROM KOSHIYAMA HIGH SCHOOL!!
Virgin Mary... has been bitten by a mouse...
MAAAN-!! I WISH I'D SEEN IT~
But I have to keep my priorities straight now!!


It's been a week already since I came to Osaka... I'm scraping the bottom of my funds too.
I've been told that I'd be sure to meet people who know of Hatogaya-san's past if I went to Osaka, but...
He did have a fishy feeling about him... The owner of that cell phone number...
KUBO
日立
Little by little, I'm starting to get worried...

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ENDLESS ABYSS

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EDITOR	AKIR4, Bearking
PROOFREADER	GETFRESH, CMERTB
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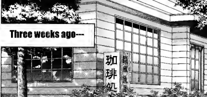
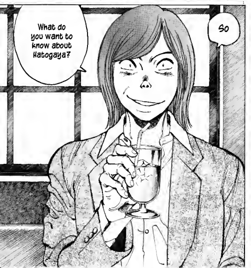
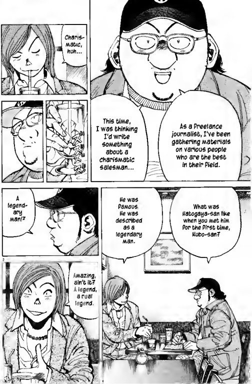
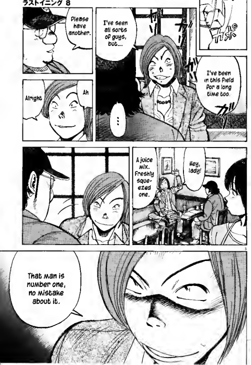
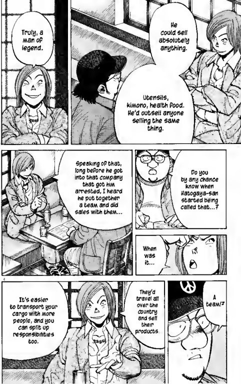

Three weeks ago---
珈琲処

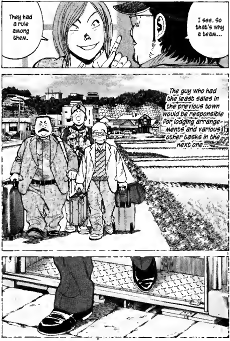
Chapter 73: That Man, in the Past...

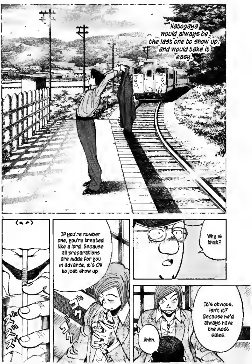

So
What do you want to know about Hatogaya?

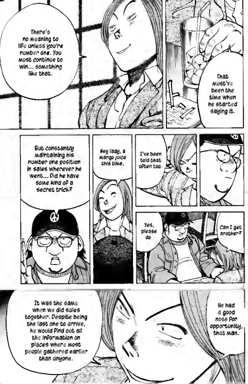

As a freelance journalist, I've been gathering materials on various people who are the best in their field.
This time, I was thinking I'd write something about a charismatic salesman...
Charismatic, huh...
What was Hatogaya-san like when you met him for the first time, Kubo-san?
He was famous. He was described as a legendary man.
A legendary man!?
Amazing, ain't it? A legend, a real legend.

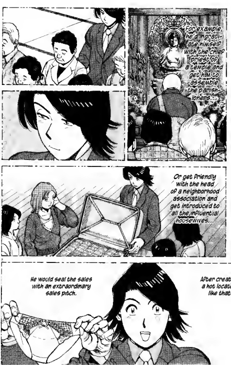

カポ
I've seen all sorts of guys, but...
I've been in this field for a long time too.
Please have another.
...
Ah
Alright
Hey, lady!
A juice mix. Freshly squeezed one.
That man is number one, no mistake about it.

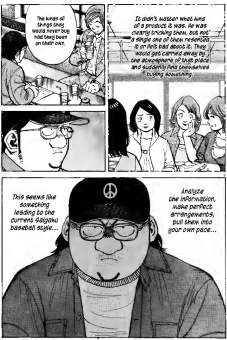

He could sell absolutely anything.
Utensils, kimono, health food. He'd outsell anyone selling the same thing.
Truly, a man of legend.
Do you by any chance know when Hatogaya-san started being called that...?
When was it...
Speaking of that, long before he got into that company that got him arrested, I heard he put together a team and did sales with them...
A team!?
They'd travel all over the country and sell their products.
It's easier to transport your cargo with more people, and you can split up responsibilities too.

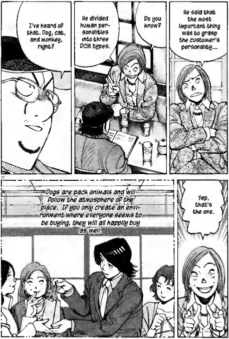

I see. So that's why a team...
They had a rule among them.
The guy who had the least sales in the previous town would be responsible for lodging arrangements and various other tasks in the next one.

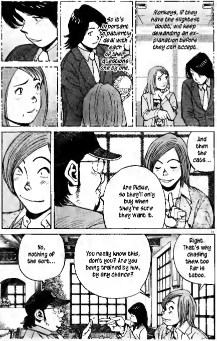

Hatogaya would always be the last one to show up, and would take it easy.
Why is that?
If you're number one, you're treated like a lord. Because all preparations are made for you in advance, it's OK to just show up
ゴクゴク
ズズズ
It's obvious, isn't it? Because he'd always have the most sales.
Ahhh.

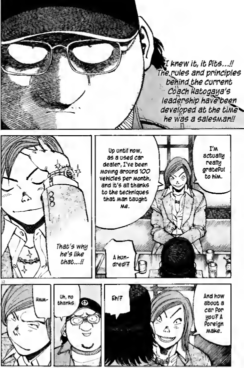

That must've been the time when he started saying it.
There's no meaning to life unless you're number one. You must continue to win... something like that.
I've been told that often too
Can I get another?
Yes, please do
Hey lady, a mango juice this time.
But constantly maintaining his number one position in sales wherever he went... Did he have some kind of a secret trick?
He had a good nose for opportunity, that man.
It was the same when we did sales together. Despite being the last one to arrive, he would find out all the information on places where most people gathered earlier than anyone.

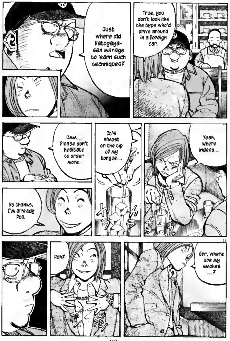

For example, he'd ingratiate himself with the chief priest of a temple and get him to assemble the parishioners...
Or get friendly with the head of a neighborhood association and get introduced to all the influential housewives...
After creating a hot location like that
He would seal the sales with an extraordinary sales pitch.

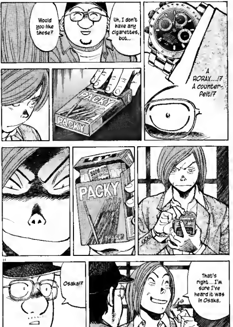

It didn't matter what kind of a product it was. He was clearly tricking them, but not a single one of them resented it or felt bad about it. They would get carried away by the atmosphere of that place and suddenly find themselves buying something.
The kinds of things they would never buy had they been on their own
9
Analyze the information, make perfect arrangements, pull them into your own pace...
This seems like something leading to the current Saigaku baseball style...

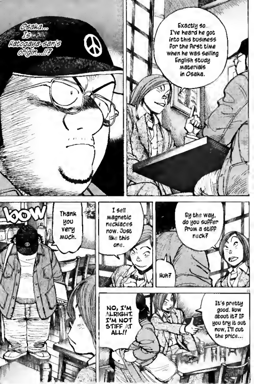

He said that the most important thing was to grasp the customer's personality...
Do you know?
He divided human personalities into three DCM types.
I've heard of that. Dog, cat, and monkey, right?
10
Yep, that's the one.
Dogs are pack animals and will follow the atmosphere of the place. If you only create an environment where everyone seems to be buying, they will all happily buy as well.

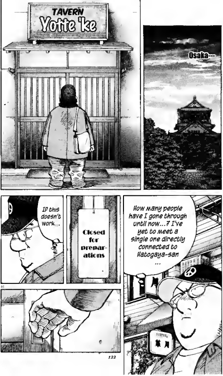

Monkeys, if they have the slightest doubt, will keep demanding an explanation before they can accept
So it's important to patiently deal with each of their questions one by one.
And then the cats...
Are fickle, so they'll only buy when they're sure they want it.
Right. That's why chasing them too far is taboo.
You really know this, don't you? Are you being trained by him, by any chance?
No, nothing of the sort...

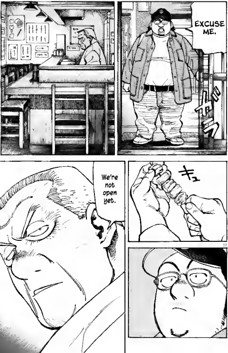

I knew it, it fits...!! The rules and principles behind the current Coach Hatogaya's leadership have been developed at the time he was a salesman!!
I'm actually really grateful to him.
Up until now, as a used car dealer, I've been moving around 100 vehicles per month, and it's all thanks to the techniques that man taught me.
A hundred!?
That's why he's like that...!!
12
And how about a car for you? A foreign make.
Eh!?
Uh, no thanks
Hmm-

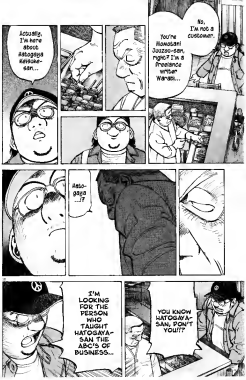

True, you don't look like the type who'd drive around in a foreign car.
Just where did Hatogaya-san manage to learn such techniques?
Yeah, where indeed...
It's almost on the tip of my tongue...
Umm. Please don't hesitate to order more.
No thanks, I'm already full.
Err, where are my smokes...?
Huh?

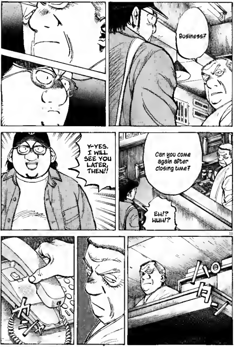

A RORAX...!? A counter-feit!?
Uh, I don't have any cigarettes, but...
Would you like these?
PACKY
PACKY
PACKY
That's right... I'm sure I've heard it was in Osaka.
Osaka!?

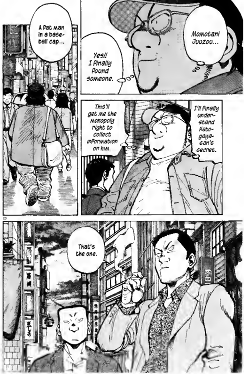

Exactly so. I've heard he got into this business for the first time when he was selling English study materials in Osaka.
Osaka... Is that Hatogaya-san's origin...!?
By the way, do you suffer from a stiff neck?
Huh?
I sell magnetic necklaces now. Just like this one.
Thank you very much.
BOW
It's pretty good. How about it? If you try it out now, I'll cut the price...
NO, I'M ALRIGHT. I'M NOT STIFF AT ALL!!


Osaka---
TAVERN
Yotte 'ke
How many people have I gone through until now...? I've yet to meet a single one directly connected to Hatogaya-san ...
Closed for preparations
If this doesn't work...


ガラ
EXCUSE ME.
We're not open yet.
キュ


No, I'm not a customer.
You're Momotani Juuzou-san, right? I'm a freelance writer Warabi...
Actually, I'm here about Hatogaya Keisuke-san...
Hatogaya ...!?
YOU KNOW HATOGAYA-SAN, DON'T YOU!?
I'M LOOKING FOR THE PERSON WHO TAUGHT HATOGAYA-SAN THE ABC'S OF BUSINESS...


Business?
Can you come again after closing time?
EH!? HUH!?
Y-YES. I WILL SEE YOU LATER, THEN!!
パターン
ガチャ


Momotani Juuzou...
Yes!! I finally found someone.
A fat man in a baseball cap...
I'll finally understand Hatogaya-san's secret.
This'll get me the monopoly right to collect information on him.
That's the one.
KO

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ABYSS

TRANSLATOR CMERTB
EDITOR AKIR4, Bearking
PROOFREADER GETFRESH, CMERTB
QC'ER Kaze, Bearking
SCANNER GODA-LEI

LOOKING
FOR STAFF.

Adobe
Photoshop

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Sorry know cute anime pictures on this
recruitment page this time we will show you
the three things you need to help our group.
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so you must be willing to give up some free time
in order to give back to the community.
That's it thats all you need to join the group
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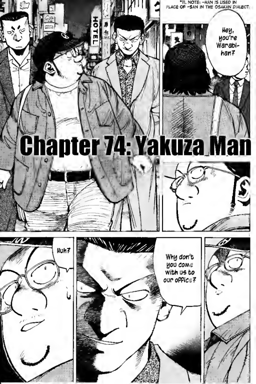
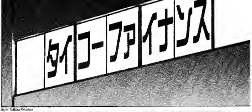
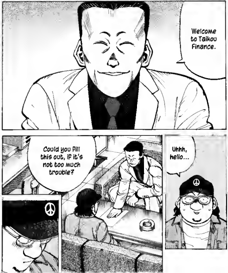
Chapter 74: Yakuza Man

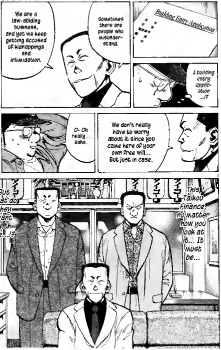
*TL NOTE: -HAN IS USED IN PLACE OF -SAN IN THE OSAKAN DIALECT.

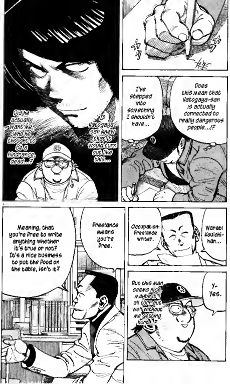

HOTEL
Hey, you're Warabi-han?
Why don't you come with us to our office?
Huh?

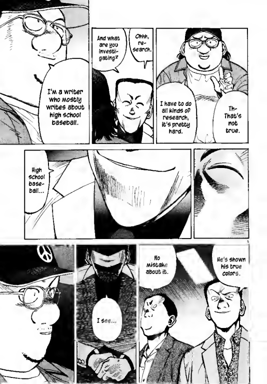

タイコーファイナンス

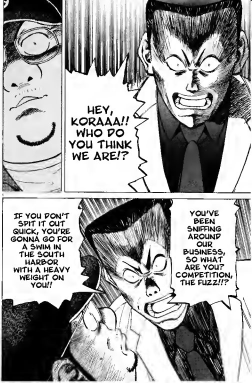
sign: Taikou Finance

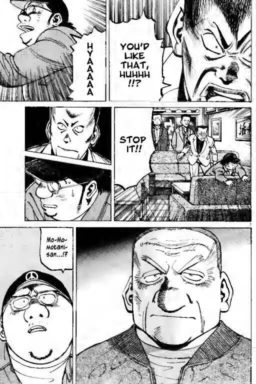

Welcome to Taikou Finance.
Uhhh, hello...
Could you fill this out, if it's not too much trouble?

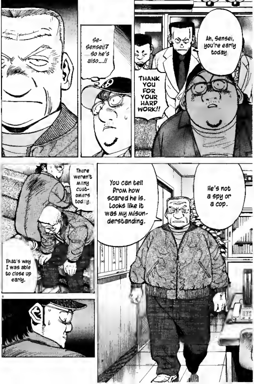

Building Entry Application
We are a law-abiding business, and yet we keep getting accused of kidnappings and intimidation.
Sometimes there are people who misunderstand.
A building entry application ...!?
We don't really have to worry about it since you came here of your own free will... But just in case.
O- Oh really. Haha.
イコー
This Taikou Finance, no matter how you look at it... It must be...
But what do they want with me...!?

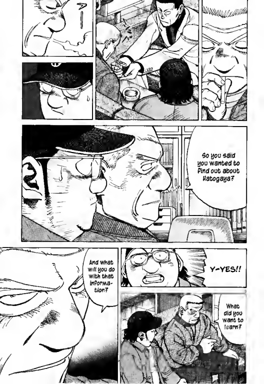

Does this mean that Hatogaya-san is actually connected to really dangerous people...!?
I've stepped into something I shouldn't have..
If Hatogaya-san knew that it would turn out like this...
Did he actually want Me, who he thought to be a hindrance, dead...?
Warabi Kouichi-han...
Occupation: Freelance writer.
Y-Yes.
But this Man seems nice maybe it'll all turn out well without Me getting hurt.
Freelance Means you're Pree.
Meaning, that you're Pree to write anything whether it's true or not? It's a nice business to put the Pood on the table, isn't it?

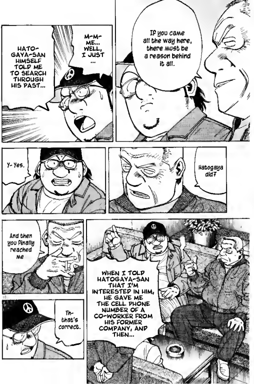

I'm a writer who mostly writes about high school baseball.
And what are you investigating?
Ohhh, research.
I have to do all kinds of research, it's pretty hard.
Th- That's not true.
High school base-ball...
I see...
No mistake about it.
He's shown his true colors.

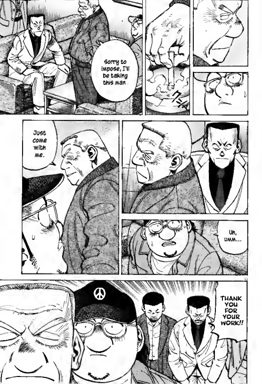

HEY, KORAAA!! WHO DO YOU THINK WE ARE!?
YOU'VE BEEN SNIFFING AROUND OUR BUSINESS, SO WHAT ARE YOU? COMPETITION, THE FUZZ!!?
IF YOU DON'T SPIT IT OUT QUICK, YOU'RE GONNA GO FOR A SWIM IN THE SOUTH HARBOR WITH A HEAVY WEIGHT ON YOU!!

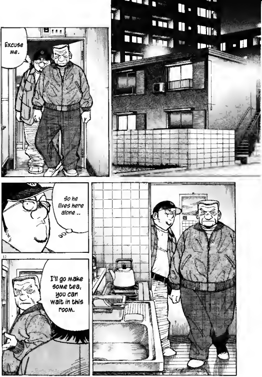

YOU'D LIKE THAT, HUHHH!!?
HYAAAAA
STOP IT!!
Mo-Mo-motani-san...!?

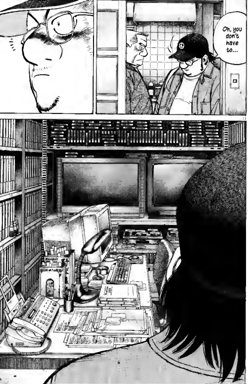

Ah, Sensei, you're early today
THANK YOU FOR YOUR HARD WORK!!
Se-Sensei!? So he's also...!!
He's not a spy or a cop.
You can tell from how scared he is. Looks like it was my misunderstanding.
There weren't many customers today.
That's why I was able to close up early.

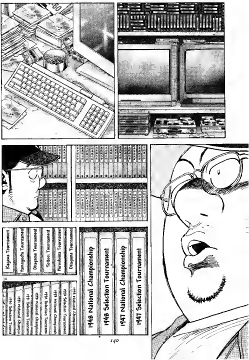

So you said you wanted to find out about Hatogaya?
Y-YES!!
What did you want to learn?
And what will you do with that information?

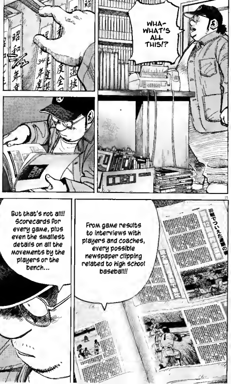

If you came all the way here, there must be a reason behind it all.
M-M-ME... WELL, I JUST ...
HATOGAYA-SAN HIMSELF TOLD ME TO SEARCH THROUGH HIS PAST...
Hatogaya did?
Y- Yes.
WHEN I TOLD HATOGAYA-SAN THAT I'M INTERESTED IN HIM, HE GAVE ME THE CELL PHONE NUMBER OF A CO-WORKER FROM HIS FORMER COMPANY, AND THEN...
And then you finally reached me
Th- that's correct.

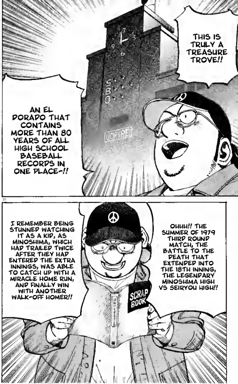

クシャ
Sorry to impose, I'll be taking this man.
Just come with me.
Uh, umm...
THANK YOU FOR YOUR WORK!!
11

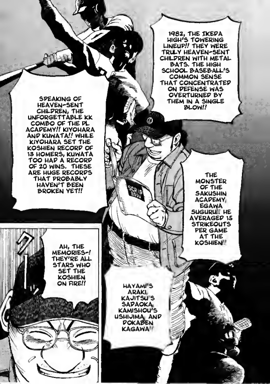

Excuse me.
So he lives here alone ..
I'll go make some tea, you can wait in this room.

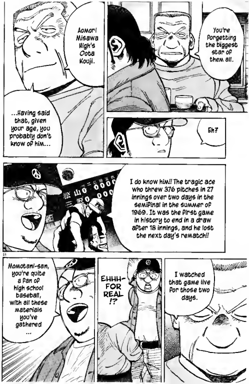

Oh, you don't have to...

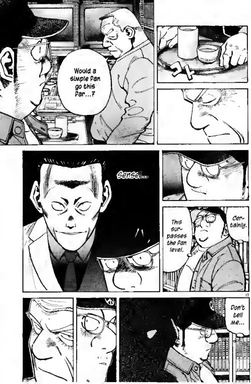

Okayama Tournament
Hiroshima Tournament
Tottori Tournament
Okayama Tournament
Yamaguchi Tournament
Kagawa Tournament
1947 Selection Tournament
1947 National Championship
1948 Selection Tournament
1948 National Championship
1994 National Championship
1993 Selection Tournament
1993 National Championsh
1992 Selection Tourname
1992 National Champions
1991 Selection Tournam
1991 National Champio
1990 Selection Tourna

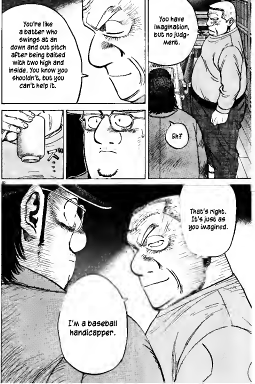

WHA-
WHAT'S
ALL
THIS!?
From game results to interviews with players and coaches, every possible newspaper clipping related to high school baseball!!!
But that's not all!! Scorecards for every game, plus even the smallest details on all the movements by the players or the bench...


THIS IS TRULY A TREASURE TROVE!!
AN EL DORADO THAT CONTAINS MORE THAN 80 YEARS OF ALL HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL RECORDS IN ONE PLACE-!!
S B O
UMPIRE
OHHH!! THE SUMMER OF 1979 THIRD ROUND MATCH, THE BATTLE TO THE DEATH THAT EXTENDED INTO THE 18TH INNING, THE LEGENDARY MINOSHIMA HIGH VS SEIRYOU HIGH!!
I REMEMBER BEING STUNNED WATCHING IT AS A KID, AS MINOSHIMA, WHICH HAD TRAILED TWICE AFTER THEY HAD ENTERED THE EXTRA INNINGS, WAS ABLE TO CATCH UP WITH A MIRACLE HOME RUN, AND FINALLY WIN WITH ANOTHER WALK-OFF HOMER!!
SCRAP BOOK


1982, THE IKEDA HIGH'S TOWERING LINEUP!! THEY WERE TRULY HEAVEN-SENT CHILDREN WITH METAL BATS. THE HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL'S COMMON SENSE THAT CONCENTRATED ON DEFENSE WAS OVERTURNED BY THEM IN A SINGLE BLOW!!
SPEAKING OF HEAVEN-SENT CHILDREN, THE UNFORGETTABLE KK COMBO OF THE PL ACADEMY!! KIYOHARA AND KUWATA!! WHILE KIYOHARA SET THE KOSHIEN RECORD OF 13 HOMERS, KUWATA TOO HAD A RECORD OF 20 WINS. THESE ARE HUGE RECORDS THAT PROBABLY HAVEN'T BEEN BROKEN YET!!
SCRAP BOOK
THE MONSTER OF THE SAKUSHIN ACADEMY, EGAWA SUGURU!! HE AVERAGED 15 STRIKEOUTS PER GAME AT THE KOSHIEN!!
HAYAMI'S ARAKI, KAJITSU'S SADAOKA, KAMISHOU'S USHIJIMA, AND DOKABEN KAGAWA!!
ク
AH, THE MEMORIES-! THEY'RE ALL STARS WHO SET THE KOSHIEN ON FIRE!!


You're forgetting the biggest star of them all.
Aomori Misawa High's Oota Kouji.
...Having said that, given your age, you probably don't know of him...
Eh?
松山 0 0 0 0
三沢 0 0 0 0
I do know him!! The tragic ace who threw 376 pitches in 27 innings over two days in the semifinal in the summer of 1969. It was the first game in history to end in a draw after 18 innings, and he lost the next day's rematch!!
Momotani-san, you're quite a fan of high school baseball, with all these materials you've gathered ...
I watched that game live for those two days.
EHHH- FOR REAL !?


Would a simple Pan go this Par...?
Cer-tainly.
This sur-passes the Pan level.
Sensei...
Don't tell me...


You have imagination, but no judgment.
You're like a batter who swings at an down and out pitch after being baited with two high and inside. You know you shouldn't, but you can't help it.
Eh?
That's right. It's just as you imagined.
I'm a baseball handicapper.

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ENDLESS ABYSS

TRANSLATOR	CMERTB
EDITOR	AKIR4, Bearking
PROOFREADER	GETFRESH, CMERTB
QC'ER	Kaze, Bearking
SCANNER	GODA-LEI

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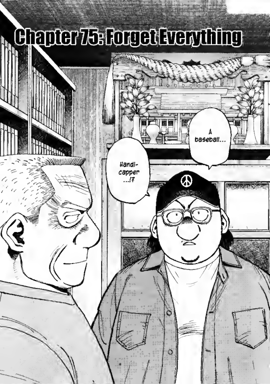
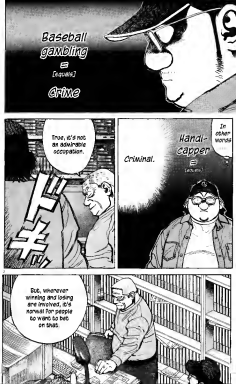
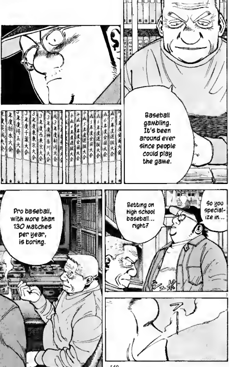
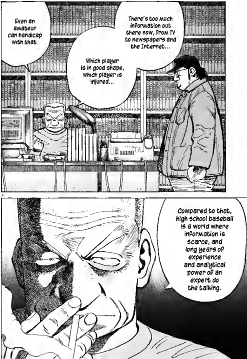
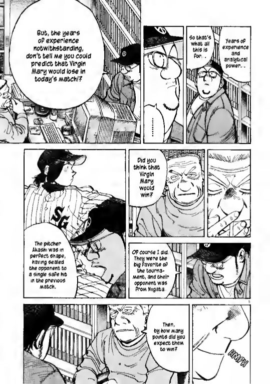
Chapter 75: Forget Everything

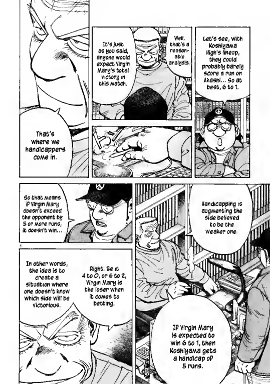

A baseball...
Handicapper ...!?

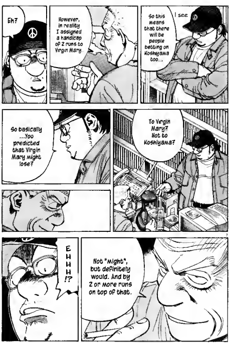

Baseball gambling
=
[equals]
Crime
In other words
Handi-capper
=
[equals]
Criminal.
True, it's not an admirable occupation.
ドキッ
But, wherever winning and losing are involved, it's normal for people to want to bet on that.

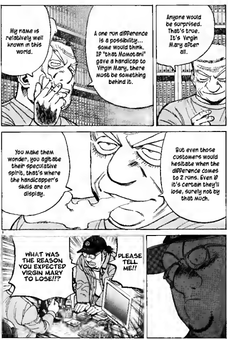

Baseball gambling. It's been around ever since people could play the game.
7年度全国大会
成7年度選抜大会
成6年度全国大会
成6年度選抜大会
成5年度全国大会
平成5年度選抜大会
平成4年度全国大会
平成4年度選抜大会
3年度新潟大会
成3年度神奈川大会
3年度西東京大会
3年度東東京大会
3年度千葉大会
3年度埼玉大会
年度栃木大会
年度茨城大会
So you specialize in...
Betting on high school baseball... right?
Pro baseball, with more than 130 matches per year, is boring.

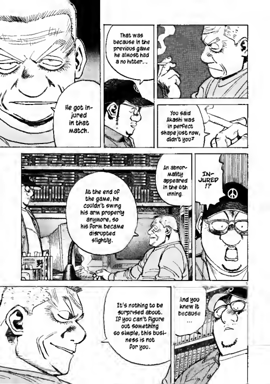

There's too much information out there now, from TV to newspapers and the Internet...
Which player is in good shape, which player is injured...
Even an amateur can handicap with that
Compared to that, high school baseball is a world where information is scarce, and long years of experience and analytical power of an expert do the talking.

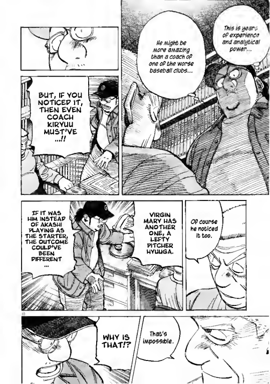

Years of experience and analytical power. .
So that's what all this is for. .
. . . .
But, the years of experience notwithstanding, don't tell me you could predict that Virgin Mary would lose in today's match!?
Did you think that Virgin Mary would win?
Of course I did. They were the big favorite of the tournament, and their opponent was from Niigata.
The pitcher Akashi was in perfect shape, having sealed the opponent to a single safe hit in the previous match.
HMPH
Then, by how many points did you expect them to win?

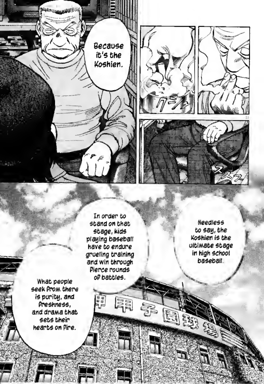

Let's see, with Koshiyama High's lineup, they could probably barely score a run on Akashi... So at best, 6 to 1.
Well, that's a reasonable analysis.
It's just as you said, anyone would expect Virgin Mary's total victory in this match.
That's where we handicappers come in.
Handicapping is augmenting the side believed to be the weaker one
If Virgin Mary is expected to win 6 to 1, then Koshiyama gets a handicap of 5 runs.
So that means if Virgin Mary doesn't exceed the opponent by 5 or more runs, it doesn't win...
Right. Be it 4 to 0, or 6 to 2, Virgin Mary is the loser when it comes to betting.
In other words, the idea is to create a situation where one doesn't know which side will be victorious.

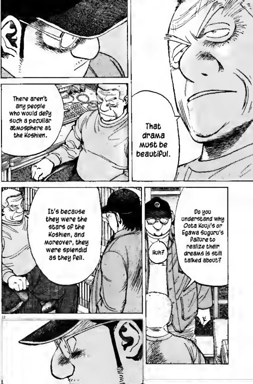

I see
So this means that there will be people betting on Koshiyama too...
However, in reality I assigned a handicap of 2 runs to Virgin Mary
Eh?
To Virgin Mary? Not to Koshiyama?
So basically ...You predicted that Virgin Mary might lose?
Not "might", but definitely would. And by 2 or more runs on top of that.
EHHHH!?

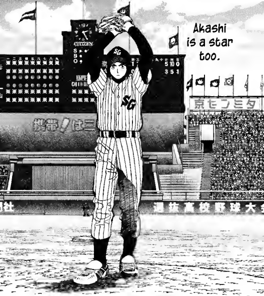

Anyone would be surprised. That's true. It's Virgin Mary after all.
A one run difference is a possibility... some would think. If "that Momotani" gave a handicap to Virgin Mary, there must be something behind it.
My name is relatively well known in this world.
But even those customers would hesitate when the difference comes to 2 runs. Even if it's certain they'll lose, surely not by that much.
You make them wonder, you agitate their speculative spirit, that's where the handicapper's skills are on display.
PLEASE TELL ME!!
WHAT WAS THE REASON YOU EXPECTED VIRGIN MARY TO LOSE!!?

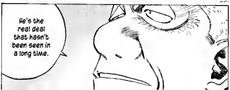

You said Akashi was in perfect shape just now, didn't you?
That was because in the previous game he almost had a no hitter...
He got injured in that match.
INJURED !?
An abnormality appeared in the 6th inning.
At the end of the game, he couldn't swing his arm properly anymore, so his form became disrupted slightly.
And you knew it because ...
It's nothing to be surprised about. If you can't figure out something so simple, this business is not for you.

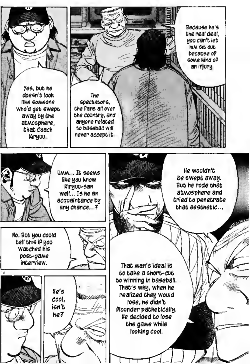

This is years of experience and analytical power...
He might be more amazing than a coach of one of the worse baseball clubs...
BUT, IF YOU NOTICED IT, THEN EVEN COACH KIRYUU MUST'VE ...!!
Of course he noticed it too.
VIRGIN MARY HAS ANOTHER ONE, A LEFTY PITCHER HYUUGA.
IF IT WAS HIM INSTEAD OF AKASHI PLAYING AS THE STARTER, THE OUTCOME COULD'VE BEEN DIFFERENT ...
That's impossible.
WHY IS THAT!?

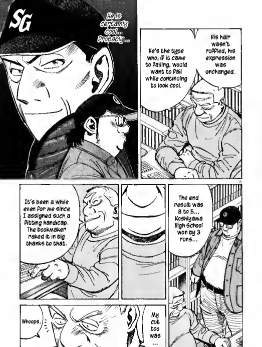

Because it's the Koshien.
Needless to say, the Koshien is the ultimate stage in high school baseball.
In order to stand on that stage, kids playing baseball have to endure grueling training and win through fierce rounds of battles.
What people seek from there is purity, and freshness, and drama that sets their hearts on fire.
甲子園球場

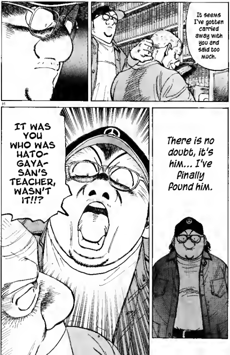

There aren't any people who would defy such a peculiar atmosphere at the Koshien.
That drama must be beautiful.
Do you understand why Oota Kouji's or Egawa Suguru's failure to realize their dreams is still talked about?
Huh?
It's because they were the stars of the Koshien, and moreover, they were splendid as they fell.

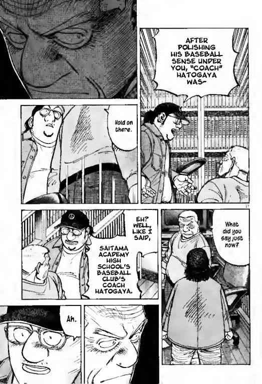

Akashi is a star too.
CITIZEN
SG
選抜高校野球大会

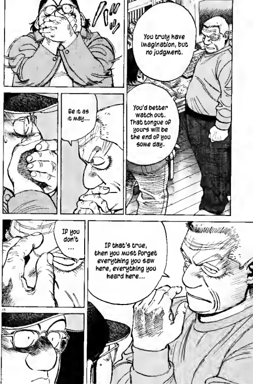

He's the real deal that hasn't been seen in a long time.

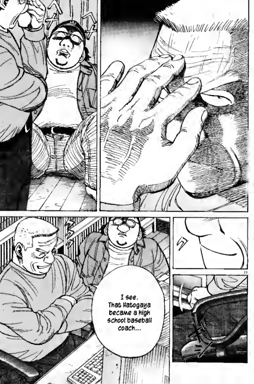

Because he's the real deal, you can't let him sit out because of some kind of injury
The spectators, the fans all over the country, and anyone related to baseball will never accept it
Yes, but he doesn't look like someone who'd get swept away by the atmosphere, that Coach Kiryou.
He wouldn't be swept away. But he rode that atmosphere and tried to penetrate that aesthetic...
Umm... It seems like you know Kiryou-san well... Is he an acquaintance by any chance...?
No. But you could tell this if you watched his post-game interview.
That man's ideal is to take a short-cut to winning in baseball. That's why, when he realized they would lose, he didn't flounder pathetically. He decided to lose the game while looking cool.
He's cool, isn't he?

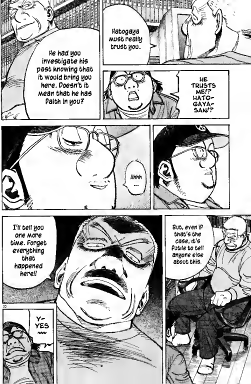

His hair wasn't ruffled, his expression was unchanged.
He's the type who, if it came to failing, would want to fail while continuing to look cool.
SG
He is certainly cool... Probably...
The end result was 8 to 5... Koshiyama High School won by 3 runs...
It's been a while even for me since I assigned such a fitting handicap. The bookmaker raked it in big thanks to that.
My cut too was ...
Whoops.


It seems I've gotten carried away with you and said too much.
There is no doubt, it's him... I've finally found him.
IT WAS YOU WHO WAS HATO-GAYA-SAN'S TEACHER, WASN'T IT!!?


AFTER POLISHING HIS BASEBALL SENSE UNDER YOU, "COACH" HATOGAYA WAS-
Hold on there.
What did you say just now?
EH? WELL, LIKE I SAID,
SAITAMA ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL'S BASEBALL CLUB'S COACH HATOGAYA.
Ah.


You truly have imagination, but no judgment.
You'd better watch out. That tongue of yours will be the end of you some day.
Be it as it may...
If that's true, then you must forget everything you saw here, everything you heard here...
If you don't ...


I see.
That Hatogaya became a high school baseball coach...


Hatogaya must really trust you.
He had you investigate his past knowing that it would bring you here. Doesn't it mean that he has faith in you?
HE TRUSTS ME!? HATOGAYA-SAN!?
Ahhh ...
But, even if that's the case, it's futile to tell anyone else about this.
I'll tell you one more time. Forget everything that happened here!!
Y-YES

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ENDLESS ABYSS

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SCANNER	GODA-LEI

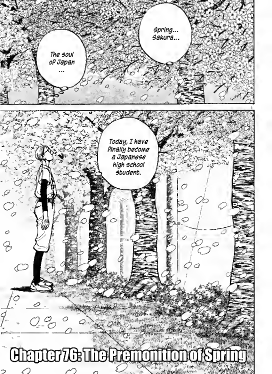
LOOKING FOR STAFF.

A SHAMELESS E-A RECRUIT PAGE

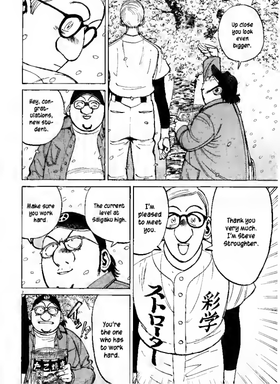
Hello
herry
Boy

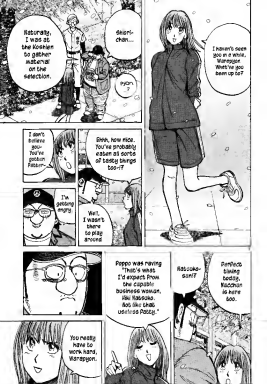
YOU LOOK BORED YOU SHOULD JOIN US AND USE SOME OF THAT FREE TIME FOR A GOOD CAUSE. WE'RE RECRUITING JAPANESE AND CHINESE TRANSLATORS EDITORS, CLEANERS, AND TYPESETTERS ALSO LOOKING FOR SCANNERS.

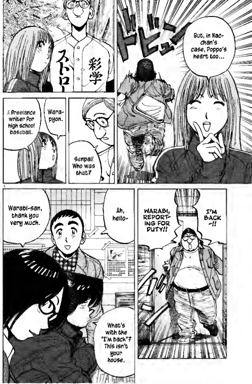
post on our forum or talk to staff on irc.

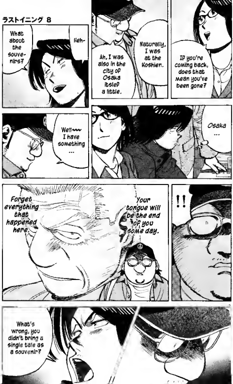

Spring... Sakura...
The soul of Japan ...
Today, I have finally become a Japanese high school student.

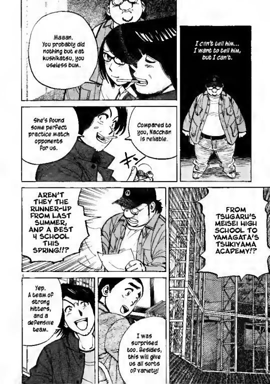
Chapter 76: The Premonition of Spring

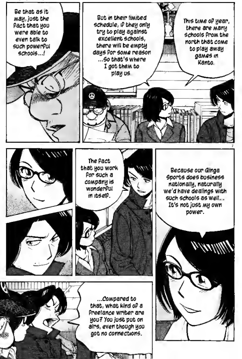

Up close you look even bigger.
Hey, congratulations, new student.
I'm pleased to meet you.
Thank you very much. I'm Steve Stroughter.
彩学
ストローター
The current level at Saigaku high.
Make sure you work hard
イッ!?
You're the one who has to work hard.
たこ焼き

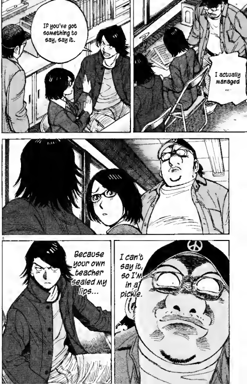

I haven't seen you in e while, Warepyon Whet've you been up to?
Shiori-chan...
Naturally, I was at the Koshien to gather material on the selection.
Pyon ..?
Ehhh, how nice. You've probably eaten all sorts of tasty things too~!?
I don't believe you~ You've gotten Fatter~
Well, I wasn't there to play around
I'm getting engry
Perfect timing today, Nacchan is here too.
Natsuko-san!?
Poppo was raving "That's what I'd expect from the capable business woman, Hiki Natsuko. Not like that useless Fatty."
You really have to work hard, Warapyon.

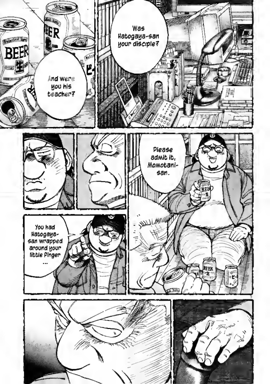

ドドビュー
But, in Nac-chan's case, Poppo's heart too...
彩学
ストロ
Senpai! Who was that?
Wara-pyon.
A freelance writer for high school baseball.
I'M BACK-!!
WARABI, REPORTING FOR DUTY!!
Ah, hello-
Warabi-san, thank you very much.
What's with the "I'm back"? This isn't your house.

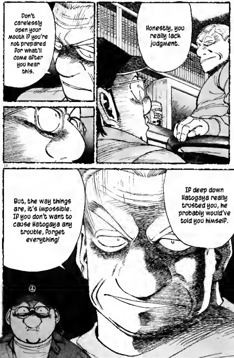

If you're coming back, does that mean you've been gone?
Naturally, I was at the Koshien.
Ah, I was also in the city of Osaka itself a little.
Heh-
What about the souvenirs?
Osaka ...
Well~~ I have something ...
!!
Your tongue will be the end of you some day.
Forget everything that happened here.
What's wrong, you didn't bring a single tale as a souvenir?

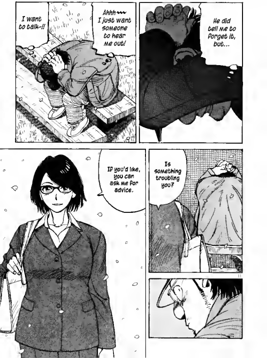

I can't tell him...
I want to tell him, but I can't.
Maaan. You probably did nothing but eat kushikatsu, you useless bum.
Compared to you, Nacchan is reliable.
She's found some perfect practice match opponents for us.
FROM TSUGARU'S MEISEI HIGH SCHOOL TO YAMAGATA'S TSUKIYAMA ACADEMY!?
AREN'T THEY THE RUNNER-UP FROM LAST SUMMER, AND A BEST 4 SCHOOL THIS SPRING!!?
I was surprised too. Besides, this will give us all sorts of variety!
Yep. A team of strong hitters, and a defensive team.

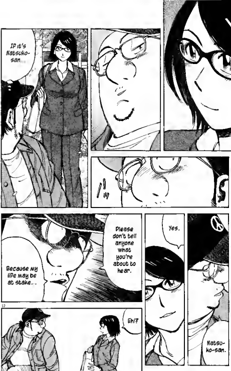

This time of year, there are many schools from the north that come to play away games in Kanto.
But in their limited schedule, if they only try to play against excellent schools, there will be empty days for some reason ...So that's where I got them to play us.
Be that as it may, just the fact that you were able to even talk to such powerful schools...!
Because our Ginga Sports does business nationally, naturally we'd have dealings with such schools as well... It's not just my own power.
The fact that you work for such a company is wonderful in itself.
...Compared to that, what kind of a freelance writer are you? You just put on airs, even though you got no connections.

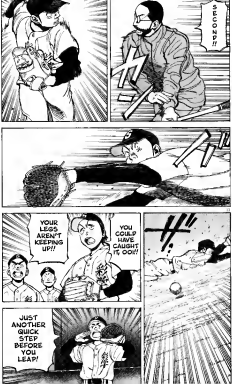

If you've got something to say, say it.
I actually managed ...
Because your own teacher sealed my lips...
I can't say it, so I'm in a pickle.

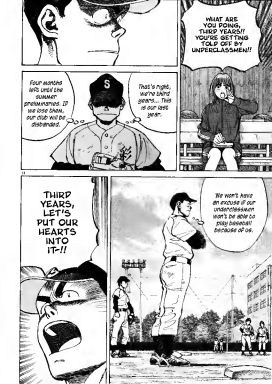

Was Hatogaya-san your disciple?
And were you his teacher?
BEER
BEER
Please admit it, Momotani-san.
You had Hatogaya-san wrapped around your little finger ...
BEER

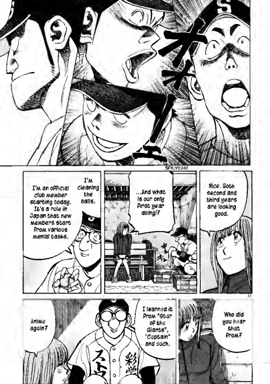

Honestly, you really lack judgment.
Don't carelessly open your mouth if you're not prepared for what'll come after you hear this.
If deep down Hatogaya really trusted you, he probably would've told you himself.
But, the way things are, it's impossible. If you don't want to cause Hatogaya any trouble, forget everything!

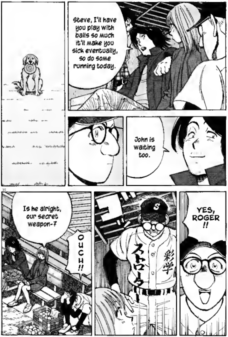

He did tell me to forget it, but...
Ahhh~~ I just want someone to hear me out!
I want to talk-!!
Is something troubling you?
If you'd like, you can ask me for advice.

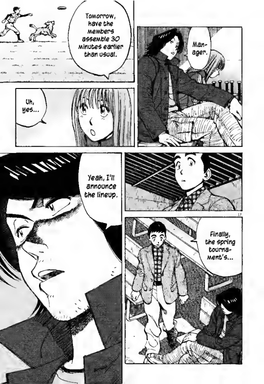

If it's Natsuko-san...
Natsuko-san.
Yes.
Please don't tell anyone what you're about to hear.
Because my life may be at stake..
Eh!?

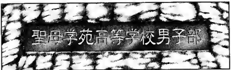

SECOND!!
YOU COULD HAVE CAUGHT IT, OOI!!
YOUR LEGS AREN'T KEEPING UP!!
JUST ANOTHER QUICK STEP BEFORE YOU LEAP!


WHAT ARE YOU DOING, THIRD YEARS!! YOU'RE GETTING TOLD OFF BY UNDERCLASSMEN!!
Four months left until the summer preliminaries. If we lose them, our club will be disbanded.
That's right, we're third years... This is our last year.
THIRD YEARS, LET'S PUT OUR HEARTS INTO IT-!!
We won't have an excuse if our underclassmen won't be able to play baseball because of us.

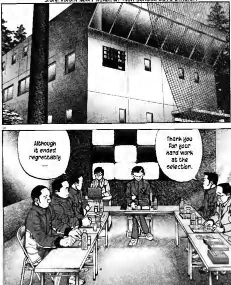

SFX:YEAH!
Nice. Both second and third years are looking good.
...And what is our only first year doing!?
I'm cleaning the balls.
I'm an official club member starting today. It's a rule in Japan that new members start from various menial tasks.
15
Who did you hear that from?
I learned it from "Star of the Giants", "Captain" and such.
Anime again?

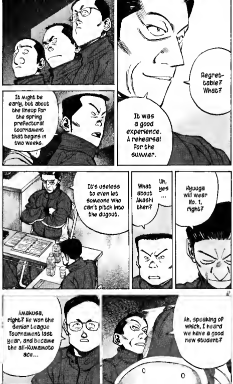

Steve, I'll have you play with balls so much it'll make you sick eventually, so do some running today.
John is waiting too.
YES, ROGER !!
S
彩学
ストローター
Is he alright, our secret weapon-?
OUCH!!

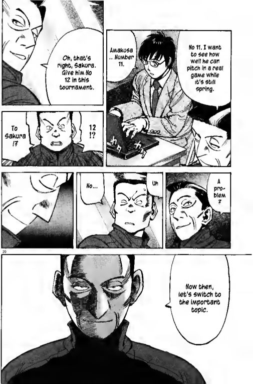

Manager.
Tomorrow, have the members assemble 30 minutes earlier than usual.
Uh, yes...
Yeah, I'll announce the lineup.
17
Finally, the spring tournament's...


聖母学苑高等学校男子部

SIGN: VIRGIN MARY ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL BOYS DIVISION


Thank you for your hard work at the selection.
Although it ended regrettably ...


Regret-table? What?
It was a good experience. A rehearsal for the summer.
It might be early, but about the lineup for the spring prefectural tournament that begins in two weeks.
Hyuuga will wear No. 1, right?
Uh, yes ...
What about Akashi then?
It's useless to even let someone who can't pitch into the dugout.
Ah, speaking of which, I heard we have a good new student?
Amakusa, right? He won the Senior League Tournament last year, and became the all-Kumamoto ace...

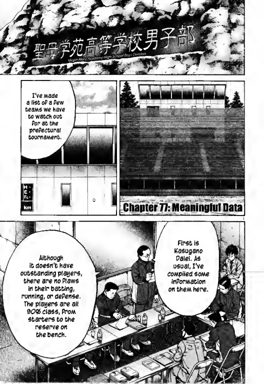

Amakusa .. Number 11.
No 11. I want to see how well he can pitch in a real game while it's still spring.
カタ カタ
Oh, that's right, Sakura. Give him No 12 in this tournament.
12 !?
To Sakura !?
A problem ?
Uh
No...
Now then, let's switch to the important topic.

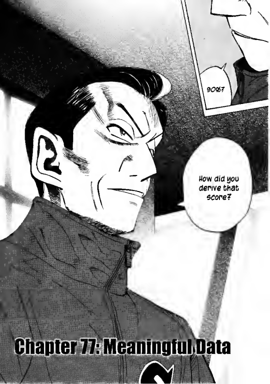
WE ARE LOOKING FOR TRANSLATORS
JAPANESE AND CHINESE
EDITORS, CLEANERS,TYPESETTERS
PROOFREADERS AND QC'ERS(EXP ONLY)
AND FANS ^^. Apply on the forum and to apply to be a fan give us a comment on the website.

We are using the entire swim team to lure staff to join us

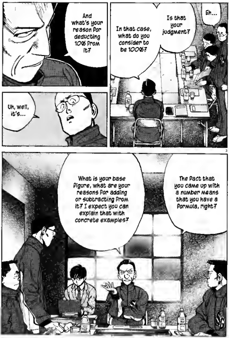
(C)Kamo / [illegible] Creative INC

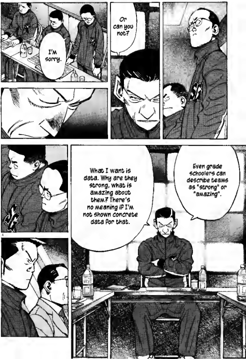
Chapter 77: Meaningful Data

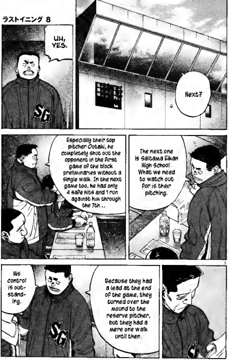

聖母学苑高等学校男子部
Virgin Mary Academy High School Boys Division
I've made a list of a few teams we have to watch out for at the prefectural tournament.
H E Fe km
1
First is Kasugano Daiei. As usual, I've compiled some information on them here.
Although it doesn't have outstanding players, there are no flaws in their batting, running, or defense. The players are all 90% class, from starters to the reserve on the bench.

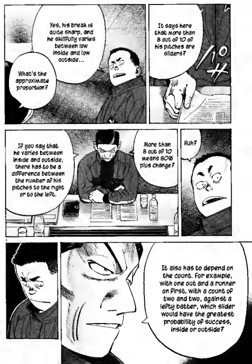

90%?
How did you derive that score?

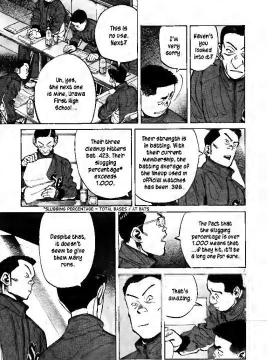
Chapter 77: Meaningful Data


Eh...
Is that your judgment?
In that case, what do you consider to be 100%?
And what's your reason for deducting 10% from it?
Uh, well, it's...
The fact that you came up with a number means that you have a formula, right?
What is your base figure, what are your reasons for adding or subtracting from it? I expect you can explain that with concrete examples?

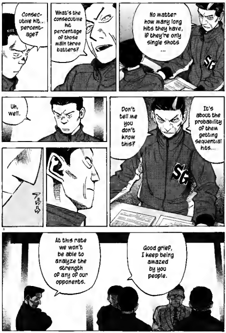

Or can you not?
I'm sorry.
Even grade schoolers can describe teams as "strong" or "amazing".
What I want is data. Why are they strong, what is amazing about them? There's no meaning if I'm not shown concrete data for that.

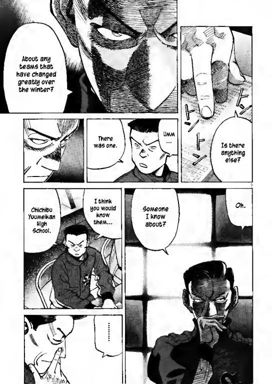

Next?
Uh, yes.
The next one is Saitama Eikan High School. What we need to watch out for is their pitching.
Especially their top pitcher Ōtaki, he completely shut out the opponent in the first game of the block preliminaries without a single walk. In the next game too, he had only 4 safe hits and 1 run against him through the 7th..
His control is outstanding.
Because they had a lead at the end of the game, they turned over the mound to the reserve pitcher, but they had a mere one walk until then.

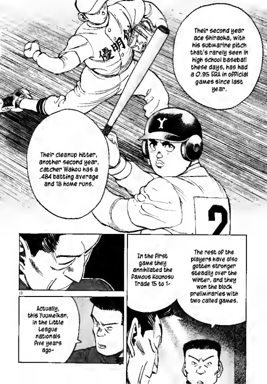

Yes, his break is quite sharp, and he skillfully varies between low inside and low outside...
What's the approximate proportion?
It says here that more than 8 out of 10 of his pitches are sliders?
More than 8 out of 10 means 80% plus change?
Huh?
If you say that he varies between inside and outside, there has to be a difference between the number of his pitches to the right or to the left.
It also has to depend on the count. For example, with one out and a runner on first, with a count of two and two, against a lefty batter, which slider would have the greatest probability of success, inside or outside?

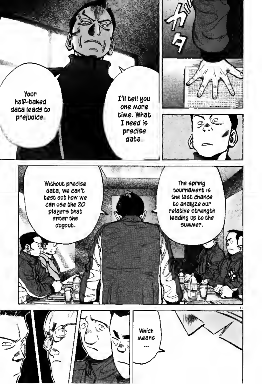

Haven't you looked into it?
I'm very sorry
This is no use. Next?
Uh, yes, the next one is mine, Urawa First High School...
Their strength is in batting. With their current membership, the batting average of the lineup used in official matches has been .398.
Their three cleanup hitters bat .423. Their slugging percentage* exceeds 1.000.
The fact that the slugging percentage is over 1.000 means that ...if they hit, it'll be a long one for sure.
That's amazing.
Despite that, it doesn't seem to give them many runs.

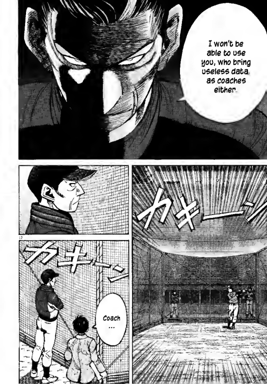
*SLUGGING PERCENTAGE = TOTAL BASES / AT BATS

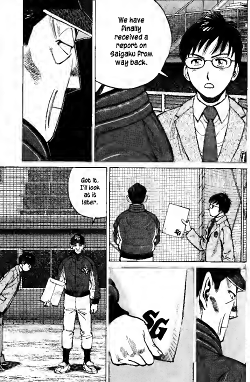

No matter how many long hits they have, if they're only single shots ...
What's the consecutive hit percentage of those main three batters?
Consecutive hit... percentage?
It's about the probability of them getting sequential hits...
Don't tell me you don't know this?
Uh, well.
フゥゥ
Good grief, I keep being amazed by you people.
At this rate we won't be able to analyze the strength of any of our opponents.

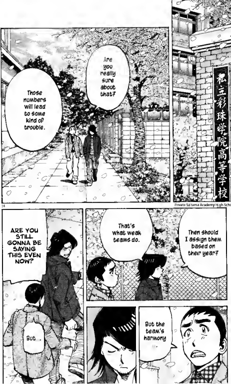

About any teams that have changed greatly over the winter?
Is there anything else?
UMM ...
There was one.
Oh.
Someone I know about?
I think you would know them...
Chichibu Youmeikan High School.
......


Their second year ace Shiraoka, with his submarine pitch that's rarely seen in high school baseball these days, has had a 0.95 ERA in official games since last year.
Their cleanup hitter, another second year, catcher Wakou has a .484 batting average and 18 home runs.
The rest of the players have also gotten stronger steadily over the winter, and they won the block preliminaries with two called games.
In the first game they annihilated the famous Kounosu Trade 15 to 1-
Actually, this Youmeikan, in the Little League nationals five years ago-

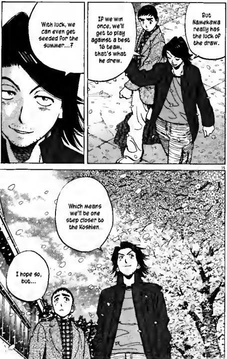

ガタ
I'll tell you one more time. What I need is precise data.
Your half-baked data leads to prejudice.
The spring tournament is the last chance to analyze our relative strength leading up to the summer.
Without precise data, we can't test out how we can use the 20 players that enter the dugout.
Which means ...

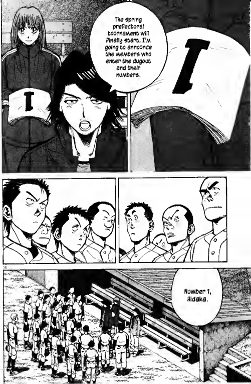

I won't be able to use you, who bring useless data as coaches either.
カキーン
カキーン
Coach ...

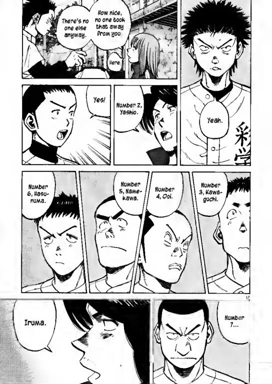

We have finally received a report on Saigaku from way back.
Got it. I'll look at it later.
SG
SG

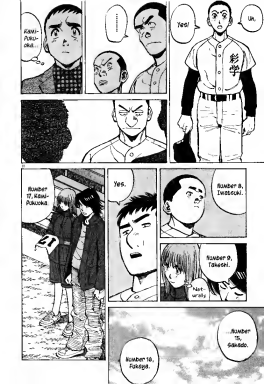

私立彩珠学院高等学校
Are you really sure about that?
Those numbers will lead to some kind of trouble.
Then should I assign them based on their year?
That's what weak teams do.
But the team's harmony
ARE YOU STILL GONNA BE SAYING THIS EVEN NOW?
But...

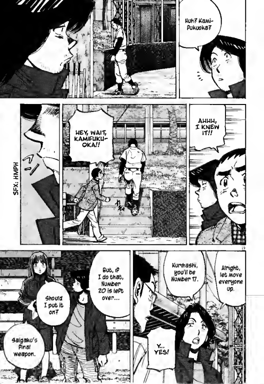
Private Saitama Academy High School

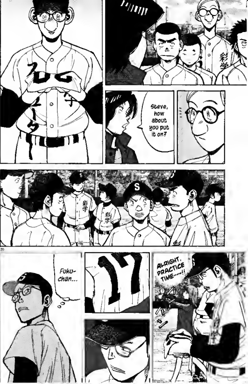

But Namekawa really has the luck of the draw.
If we win once, we'll get to play against a best 16 team, that's what he drew.
With luck, we can even get seeded for the summer...?
Which means we'll be one step closer to the Koshien
I hope so, but...


The spring prefectural tournament will finally start. I'm going to announce the members who enter the dugout and their numbers.
Number 1, Hidaka.


How nice, no one took that away from you
There's no one else anyway.
Here
Yeah.
Number 2, Yashio.
Yes!
Number 3, Kawaguchi.
Number 4, Ooi.
Number 5, Namekawa.
Number 6, Hasunuma.
Number 7...
Iruma.


Uh,
Yes!
彩学
......
Kami-Fukuoka...
Number 8, Iwatsuki.
Yes.
Number 9, Takeshi.
Nat-urally.
...Number 15, Sakado.
Number 16, Fukaya.
Number 17, Kami-Fukuoka.
17


Huh? Kami-Fukuoka?
AHHH, I KNEW IT!!
HEY, WAIT, KAMIFUKU-OKA!!
SFX: HMPH
19
Alright, let move everyone up.
Kurihashi, you'll be Number 17.
Y... YES!
But, if I do that, Number 20 is left over...
Should I put it on?
Saigaku's final weapon.


Steve, how about you put it on?
Fuku-chan...
ALRIGHT, PRACTICE TIME---!!

Last Inning Volume 9 fin

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LOOKING FOR STAFF.